Fitbeat Fitness Zumba Famila to hold 2-hr. Zumba Marathon. PAGE 2
DPS: 2nd person of interest in Cabrera case hasn't been cleared. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

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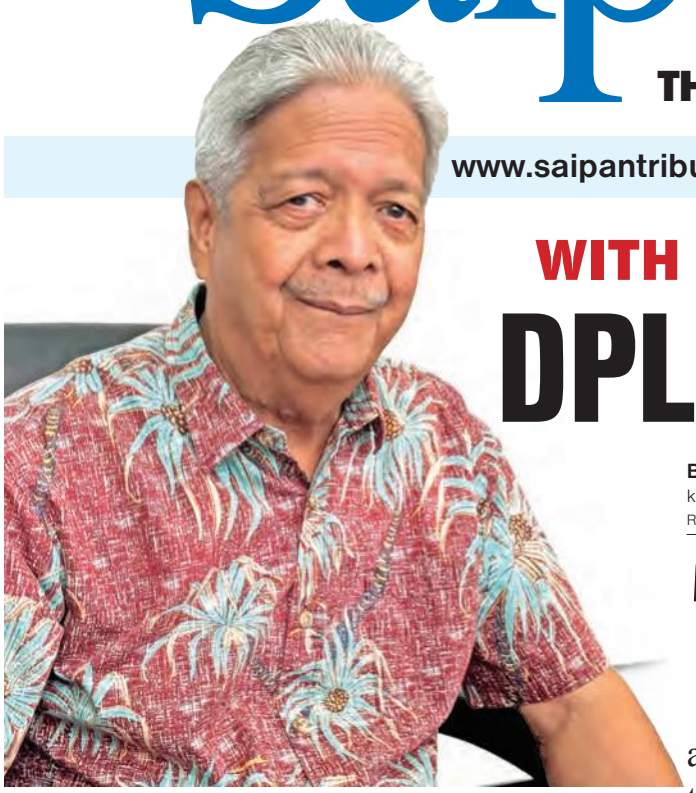

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

David Sablan, special advisor for the Department of Public Lands, speaks on the proposed amendments to the existing rules and regulations governing the commercial use of Mañagaha island.

WITH REGARD TO MAÑAGAHA LAND LEASE AGREEMENT

DPL: MGI found noncompliant

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has disclosed that Marianas Global Inc., the current master concessionaire of Mañagaha, has violated terms of their land lease agreement, specifically nonpayment of fees pursuant to the agreement.

See DPL on Page 4

OAG appeals Superior Court's order of disqualification

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Manibusan

The Office of the Attorney General has officially filed an appeal against Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas' ruling disqualifying the OAG from prosecuting former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

In an interview with Attorney General Edward Manibusan last Friday, he said his office is strongly in favor of an appeal

See OAG on Page 4

AS PSS GETS READY FOR OPENING

Camacho expresses optimism to staff for successful new school year

PSS

Tinian Middle School and Tinian High School instructional staff led by principal Liz Perzinski gather around key Public School System management to officially kick-off the school district's preparation for the opening of School Year 2024-2025. Joining Perzinski seated, front row, are Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, seated center, Special Education State director Donna Flores, Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, Human Resources officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, Finance and Procurement and Supply director Arlene Lizama, senior director for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Quitugua, and Instructional Technology and Distance Education director Lorraine Catienza.

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota public elementary, middle, and high schools are getting ready to welcome students back to class for the new school year.

The first day of classes for the Public School System is next Tuesday, Aug. 20, but last Tuesday, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho greeted teachers and

See CAMACHO on Page 4

OFFICE OF THE CNMI GOVERNOR

From left, Israel "Ace" Laqueo, engineer and project manager for GPPC Inc.; Neil Paynter, principal architect for ARi Partners Architecture PC; Sonya Dancoe, president SP Dancoe and Associates; Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang; Tracy Guerrero, general manager for Atkins Kroll Saipan; Gov. Arnold I. Palacios; and Clark Boswell, general manager and vice President for Atkins Kroll Guam and Saipan pose for a photo after an exclusive tour of the soon-to-be completed, state-of-the-art AK Saipan Toyota Lexus Showroom and Service Center in Puerto Rico.

Palacios, Apatang tour future site of new AK Saipan dealership

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang yesterday went on an exclusive tour of the soon-to-be completed, state-of-the-art Atkins Kroll Saipan Toyota

See AK on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

Vice President Kamala Harris has a perceived advantage over former President Donald Trump on several leadership qualities such as honesty, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds.

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WORLD

Japan, one of the most earthquake-prone nations on earth, issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory" last week after a powerful quake struck off the southeastern coast of the southern main island of Kyushu.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

A lawyer for the main suspect in an alleged plot to attack now-canceled Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna said Tuesday that authorities' presentation of the case is exaggerated.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fitbeat Fitness Zumba Familia will hold a Zumba Marathon on Aug. 17, starting 5pm at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, coach Irene Holl, zin Joey de Vera, coach Joel Vallega, zin Helly Montes, zin Terry Madriaga, and zin Kevin Capulso pose for a photo.

Fitbeat Fitness Zumba Famila to hold 2-hr. Zumba Marathon

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

To mark its fifth anniversary, Fitbeat Fitness Zumba Familia will hold a Zumba Marathon that is open to the public this Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

Irene Holl, one of the pioneer coaches of the group, said the event is a celebration of gratitude for the community's support and registration starts at 5pm.

"We thank the community for their continued support and growing interest to attend our classes. I personally want to thank our zins and coaches for volunteering their time and talent. We will not be able to provide free Zumba and core classes if not for them," she said.

Holl added her appreciation to the members who donated funds to cover the $10-per-day rental use of the Roundhouse.

The event's welcome address will be made by Lady Diann Torres and the inspirational message will be delivered by coach Derek Cutting, founder and owner of Latte Built.

The two-hour Zumba Marathon starts at 6pm. Holl will be joined by other coaches—Joel, Marc, and Christine—together with zins Tere, Kaz, Helly, Joey, Art, Kevin, Joseph, and Mari.

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AKR marks 51st anniversary, installs new officers

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Alpha Kappa Rho 2023-2024 Saipan council president and grand skeptron Armando Camposano, 2024-2025 grand skeptron Alan Borito, vice grand skeptron Benny Russel Bagasala, secretary Mark Ranier Ignacio, treasurer Rico Delos Reyes, master initiative Roldan Villaluz, and chair Ricardo Ansay during AKR's 51st anniversary last Thursday at Marvz Kitchen.

Alpha Kappa Rho celebrated its 51st anniversary and welcomed its new officers last Thursday night at Marvz Kitchen along Middle Road.

Twenty-five AKR members and their families attended the occasion that saw the installation of 2023-2024 Saipan council president and grand skeptron Armando Camposano along with the other newly elected officers: Alan Borito as 2024-2025 president and grand skeptron, Benny Russel Bagasala as vice grand skeptron, Mark Ranier Ignacio as secretary, Rico Delos Reyes as treasurer, Roldan Villaluz as master initiative, and Ricardo Ansay as chairman.

According to Camposano, the AKR election was supposed to be next year because their term was for two years, but he was elected to the AKP International Council to serve as AKP IC VGS for residence wherein the group has 45 councils all over the world in different countries including the U.S. Canada, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Japan, and more.

In his speech, Camposano thanked the AKR members and congratulated the new officers.

"It is an honor to serve as a grand skeptron for the Saipan council for 2023-2024, and to our officers, I congratulate each of you for attaining this distinction. I also welcome the new set of officers for 2024-2025. Our name, Rho Kappa, is taken from two words of Semitic origin. Rho is derived from 'resh' meaning 'head' and kappa is derived from "kapf" which means 'palm of the hand.' Both these terms symbolize our firm belief that knowledge without service is useless," he said.

Aside from the installation of new officers, last week's event also saw the awarding of certificates of appreciation to members present during the celebration.

The Alpha Kappa Rho (Skeptron) on Saipan was established on Dec. 12, 2019 and currently has 30 active members, and they are Alan Borito, Benny Russel Bagasala, Mark Ignacio, Rico Delos Reyes, Roldan Villaluz, Ricardo Ansay, Frankie Ferrer, Domingo Zamora, Erick Royce Nuyles, Dennis Cortez, Rodolfo Singca, Victor Fraginal, Manuel Raboy, Luzviminda S. Indalecio, Leonardo Agna II, Alfred Matsunaga, Alvin M. Rebamba, Christian Lem, Dennis Odtojan, Dhonald Romo, Jess Farinas, Joseph David, Julius Laclac, Keith Santos, Marvin Santos, Randy Faustin, Reynaldo P. Joson, Ronald Panlilio, Mellay L. Sagupid, and Armando Camposano.

As for projects, Camposano said AKR maintains its adopted area at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower along the Sugar Dock Beach by cleaning it. They have also been helping their members' families in the Philippines that require medical support and those who were affected by the recent typhoon.

Camposano also added that AKR's members have life insurance and medical insurance for their loved ones in the Philippines that is paid for by Alpha Kappa Rho International. AKR is still looking for more projects like bus and picnic shelters.

The Alpha Kappa Rho International is a humanitarian service fraternity and sorority established in the Philippines in 1973. The fraternity, comprising of men and women from different universities, was originally established to promote loyalty, unity, and integrity among its members. They have 16 founders and the highest founding fathers are Boy Chua and Roger Sarmiento

Its mission is to serve and assist humanity whenever possible while its vision is to help the Saipan community. The group does not recruit, but welcomes persons who want to be a member, though most of the current members come from chapters in the Philippines and continue their humanitarian service on Saipan. The group is registered at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as a non-profit organization.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

RFP24– RED001
"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP"
(FORMER ROTA RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB)
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David Apatang, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified firms for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public lands:

Lot Number	Lot Size, M2
410 R 03	9,119
410 R 02	12,964
412 R 04	930,755
412 R 15	340,729
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:	**1,293,567**

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Full package of the RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. A non-refundable Administrative Processing Fee of **Five Thousand Dollars (US $5,000.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands.***

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email. The request must reference **"RFP24-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP",** and include a certified or cashier's check payable to ***Department of Public Lands*** for the amount of US **$5,000.00** (a non-refundable fee required upon submission of proposal).

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP24-RED001 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ROTA, MP"**. For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the DPL Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building by **4:00p.m. on September 10, 2024 ChST** or mailed to the following address shown below:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:00 pm on August 20, 2024 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the address above. Responses to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/Teresita A. Santos
Secretary

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING JULY 16, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL AND JET A1 FUEL **(RFP-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 15, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: July 16, 2024

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DCCA/CCDF-42400142

SUBMISSION DATE: September 28, 2024
TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS/CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARIBEL D. LOSTE AT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND, AT (670) 3664-2573 OR (670) 664-2590.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS, JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

2nd person of interest in Cabrera case not yet cleared

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Public Safety and the Criminal Investigation Bureau is continuing its investigation on the death of Pedro Pangelinan Cabrera.

In fact, DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon Manacop said CIB is investigating the second person of interest in the homicide and the individual has not yet been cleared.

"Although we have officially charged Moses Cabrera, we are still actively investigating the possible involvement of the second person of interest," said Manacop, who added that aside from that there are no new updates in the investigation.

The second person of interest is the deceased's other brother, Fritz.

On Aug. 5, 2024, Moses P. Cabrera, 78, appeared in Superior Court in Susupe after allegedly confessing to killing his brother, Pedro P. Cabrera, 71, whose body was discovered last Aug. 1 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Cabrera

Facing multiple charges including second-degree murder and voluntary manslaughter, Moses was placed under a $250,000 bail. His preliminary hearing was waived but his arraignment is scheduled for Aug. 19.

Moses allegedly confessed that a heated argument over family land led to a physical altercation where Pedro threatened him. Moses claimed he then struck Pedro with a hammer, later disposing his body at the fishing base. Crime scene was at the Cabrera home residence in San Jose.

Investigators identified the body as Pedro, a former inmate, and found evidence linking Moses to the crime, including bloodstains and a hammer near his residence. DPS shared their desire to keep the community informed and continues to urge the public and community members who have information related to the incident to share it by calling 911, DPS, or Crime Stoppers.

CAMACHO

From page 1

staff who officially reported for work after a brief summer break to prepare for the opening of School Year 2024-2025. Aug. 13 was the first day for PSS instructional staff—teachers, instructors, teacher aides, English language learners, and special education teachers and teacher aides.

Some of these instructional staff worked during the summer through the many supplemental programs offered by various schools in the CNMI. School principals and vice principals also worked throughout the summer.

Last Tuesday, Camacho shared his optimism of a successful new school year and, among others, said they will start with "no interruptions" with its constitutional mandate as a result of no reduction of its local funding. He credited the central government for its support of the PSS' $33-million budget request for fiscal 2025, which officially begins on Oct. 1.

"Schools are ready to open next week," Camacho told teachers in Tinian's public elementary, middle, and high schools. Along with Tinian schools, Saipan and Rota schools held simultaneous return-to-school professional development for personnel and staff.

"I am looking forward to a successful new school year. And it starts with you all, who are out there, who are delivering for our students—from curriculum to the different programs that we have to support student learning," Camacho said. Tinian was the education chief's first stop of his school visits aimed to engage directly all elementary, middle, and high school teaching, non-teaching staff, and all other stakeholders and partners of PSS.

Tinian Middle School and Tinian High School principal Liz Perzinski told educators of both schools that "it was the best time and opportunity to ask questions" to PSS management, who are "our drivers on addressing issues about our needs for funding to support classroom learning and about everything."

Tinian Elementary School principal Lou Connie Manglona said her school shares the optimism of the school district's reopening of the new school year.

The education chief was joined by senior director for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Quitugua, Human Resources officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, Finance and Procurement and Supply director Arlene Lizama, Special Education State director Donna M. Flores, Instructional Technology and Distance Education director Lorraine Catienza, and senior director for Accountability, Research, and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina P. Liwag.

Between 9,000 and 10,000 children are expected when the doors open for all 20 elementary, middle, and high schools, including Head Start/Early Head Start centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Good news

"I can officially share this good news: We are good for fiscal year 2025. We have succeeded so far in getting our requested funding, as evidenced by our strong relations and partnership with the (Palacios administration) and the legislature. We know that the American Rescue Plan Act funding for PSS will be going away, and we made it clear to our partners when we submitted our funding," the education chief said. "The central government understood our needs and worked with us to ensure we don't have to cut hours that will affect our schools' instructional hours and all other factors that come with a lower budget."

"This is really good news," said a long-time Tinian educator, reacting to the announcement of the commissioner of education.

"That means we won't be able to cut our instructional (teaching) time for our students, which is my worry if (PSS funding is reduced)," another classroom teacher said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

AK

From page 1

Lexus Showroom and Service Center in Puerto Rico.

Palacios and Apatang were joined by AK leadership and project team members in the future body shop facility behind AK's Car-O-Liner, one of the most technologically advanced repair equipment and the first in the CNMI.

Tracy Guerrero, AK Saipan's newly appointed general manager; Clark Boswell, AK general manager and vice president for Guam and Saipan; and Neil Paynter, principal architect for Ari Partners Architecture shared construction progress of the new 43,800-square-foot facility during the tour of the $23-million project which broke ground in March last year. Atkins Kroll anticipates a soft opening by November when all permits are complete.

Palacios indicated that investments such as this one from companies like Atkins Kroll, bring additional optimism and confidence in the economic development and growth of the CNMI.

AK shared that in the coming months, the community will see significant progress to the exterior of the building, roadway improvements, and beautification to the surrounding landscape.

The new dealership and service center will be the first of its kind in the CNMI allowing residents to experience a world-class facility right here at home. Employees will also experience state-of-the-art equipment which will further their development and skillsets.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, aside from being the first dedicated Lexus showroom of AK Saipan, the new dealership will also serve as AK Saipan's corporate offices and will also house an automotive service and body repair shop that will be able to service personal and commercial vehicles.

For one, the AK Saipan Toyota Lexus Showroom and Service Center's high-tech vehicle repair shop will be close to 30,000 square feet in area and will include 14 vehicle service bays. The auto body shop, meanwhile, consists of nine repair bays and a contained and fully ventilated internal paint booth. ***(PR)***

OAG

From page 1

against the Superior Court's July 16 order disqualifying the OAG from prosecuting former governor Torres in misconduct in public office cases filed against him.

Last Aug. 13, OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr. officially filed an appeal stating that Superior Court judge protem Barcinas invalidated the OAG's constitutional duty as the CNMI's sole prosecuting authority.

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by and through its chief solicitor, J. Robert Glass Jr., files this Notice of Appeal pursuant to NMI Supreme Court Rules 3 and 4; and 6 CMC § 8101(a).1 The Superior Court through its judge pro-tempore has invalidated the constitutional duty of the sole prosecuting authority of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Attorney General, in prosecuting any current or former governor, including the defendant, former governor, Ralph Anthony Deleon Guerrero Torres. This appeal is not taken for the purpose of delay, but so that justice may be done and to validate the duties of the Attorney General as the sole prosecuting authority under the NMI Constitution. NMI Constitution Art. III, § 11," Glass stated.

Previously, Barcinas disqualified the OAG, including assistant attorney general James Robert Kingman, from prosecuting Torres in a misconduct in public office case filed over two years ago.

In a 16-page order issued on July 16, Barcinas granted the defense motion for reconsideration and motion for the OAG to withdraw or be disqualified as prosecutor in the criminal case filed against Torres.

In addition, Barcinas declined to appoint a new special prosecutor and being unable to appoint the Office of the Public Auditor to prosecute in lieu of the OAG, the court instead deferred the matter to the executive branch to execute its prosecutorial authorities in the case.

The judge also disqualified the OAG and Kingman from prosecuting a related case, the refiled separate charge of contempt and misconduct in public office against the former governor.

In a previous interview with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, he said he will allow the OAG to go through the appeal process before acting on this matter.

However, he said he would cross the bridge when he gets there.

DPL

From page 1

Yesterday, in an interview with Gregory Deleon Guerrero, director for DPL's compliance division, he disclosed that DPL has notified MGI of the need to rectify violations made toward the terms and conditions of its existing lease of Mañagaha Island.

To be specific, Deleon Guerrero shared the violations cited involves nonpayment.

"We did issue a notification to MGI to rectify the terms and conditions of their respective agreement that involves payments and Business Gross Revenue Tax, and others," he said.

"Whenever there's a notification from the compliance division, there is violation to the agreement that needs to be rectified. So, we're giving [MGI] due process," he added.

Deleon Guerrero added that the notice was sent to Marianas Global at the end of July and they are being given time to rectify these violations.

"[As for] the payment process, there is a five-day provision and on the rest of the provisions, [they are given] 30 days," he said.

When asked about how many months MGI has been cited for nonpayment or the amount owed to DPL, Deleon Guerrero said the public is open to file an Open Government Act request in order for DPL to release that information.

Mañagaha dispute

Marianas Global Inc., as the master concessionaire of Mañagaha, is currently involved in a public disagreement between DPL and local marine operators regarding proposed amendments to the existing rules and regulations governing the commercial use of Mañagaha.

Currently, operators are pushing back against the proposed amendments on the belief that they will no longer be able to do business on the island as the proposed amendments gives total control of the island to Marianas Global.

According to David Sablan, special advisor for DPL, he wants to clarify that this is not the case and that with the proposed amendments, there is still opportunity for marine operators to do business on the island as long as they get into a sub-concession agreement with Marianas Global and DPL.

"In the proposed amendments, there is a provision that gives the opportunity for marine sports operators to continue doing business as long as they go through a sub-concession agreement mutually agreed upon by DPL and the master concessionaire [Marianas Global]. It's not the end of our marine sports operators, there is opportunity for them to continue their operations as usual," he said.

Bonnie Royal of DPL's real-estate division said that ultimately, Marianas Global has exclusive control of commercial operations of Mañagaha pursuant to its land lease agreement. However, they are free to sub-contract other businesses should they choose to do so.

"In the agreement, there is a provision that gives opportunity for sub-concessionaires, and this means that if Marianas Global is not able to extend certain services, they are able to contract other companies and other businesses to conduct business in the exclusive concessionaire area. Because they are paying for that area, the sub-concessionaires must comply with MGI's terms and conditions which will be stated in a sub-concession agreement that will be reviewed by DPL," she said.

DPL is set for a public hearing on Friday at 5:30pm.

NMC pre-engineering students gain real-world engineering experience at DPW internship

NMC

As part of their internship, DPW interns receive hands-on, real-world engineering experience in the field.

Over the summer, two Northern Marianas College pre-engineering students, Kyle Attao and Issac Han, gained valuable firsthand experience through an internship with the CNMI Department of Public Works.

Attao who recently graduated with an Associate in Liberal Arts with an Emphasis in Pre-Engineering, saw this internship opportunity as a way to get ahead of the curb as he prepares himself for a degree in civil engineering out-of-island.

"I chose my degree because I was curious about engineering. You hear on and on about engineers in the media and see all these civil works like roads, sewers, bridges, and other civil construction projects. I guess I just wanted to know more about what went into them," said Attao.

Issac Han, a current Liberal Arts pre-engineering emphasis student, chose to pursue his major at NMC to leverage the college's connections and build a strong foundation for his future career.

"NMC provides me with the perfect foundation for this journey, allowing me to adapt and thrive in ever-evolving professional landscapes while preparing to contribute to the growth and development of Saipan. My motivation is that I am one step closer to studying the actual major that I want to study, which is Architecture," said Han.

During their time at DPW, they dove into the technical parts of the job and the importance of safety regulations. "We learned a good amount about how to read document schematics and blueprints as well as some specific details regarding what goes into a legal structure. We also learned the regulations of building safety, and how local businesses generally meet these regulations," said Attao.

"I gained insights into project management, understanding how thorough planning, efficient resource allocation, and collaboration are essential to successful project completion. Additionally, I observed the significant impact of well-maintained public facilities on the daily lives of residents and the overall functioning of society, said Han.

Han added, "This experience underscored the value of attention to detail, adherence to safety standards, and the need for sustainable practices in public works projects. These lessons have equipped me with a deeper appreciation for public service and a commitment to contributing positively to my community."

They described the most rewarding aspect of their internship being the experience of taking part in onsite inspections.

"It was interesting to shadow the Building Safety Inspectors and see exactly where certain businesses were doing right, or wrong," said Attao.

When discussing their choice to study at NMC, they both emphasized the importance of being close to home.

"I chose NMC because Saipan is my home, and it's always easier to pick home over elsewhere," said Attao.

"I chose NMC because of the valuable connections it offers. My goal is to return to the island of Saipan after studying abroad, equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to make a meaningful impact," said Han.

In a message to students planning to pursue this career path, they both highlight the importance of never giving up.

"The best advice I can give is to keep on going, do your best, and try not to mess up. Also to study as much as you can," said Attao.

"Remember that it's okay to work at your own pace. Everyone progresses differently, and you shouldn't feel pressured to match the pace of others. It's important to choose a course load that you can manage comfortably, rather than overextending yourself to keep up with others."

DPW Secretary Ray Yumul expressed his enthusiasm for the students' aspirations and their department's ability to make this internship possible.

"We applaud the commitment of students like Kyle and Isaac who are actively pursuing careers in engineering," Yumul stated. "DPW is proud to provide opportunities for young people to gain valuable experience and contribute to our island's development."

For more information about the college's pre-engineering program and the DPW internship, call (670) 237-6740 or email velma.deleon.guerrero@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

NMC

From left, NMC pre-engineering students Kyle Attao and Isaac Han review DPW design blueprints and documents.

Commonwealth Zoning Board
Board Meeting

Thursday, August 29, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 08/29/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 07/11/24 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments *(not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14923 – American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market** proposes to amend its previous approved *Conditional Use Permit 2020-3847* to include a new use of *Flower/Floral Shop* on the ground floor of its existing building and to construct a 2nd floor extension measuring **84' 6" (L) x 40' 6" (W) x 24' (H)** for its "Single-Family Dwelling" use. The site is located on Lot 002 G 16 in the village of **Kagman**. This area is zoned as Village **Residential.**

2. **Conditional Use Application #2024-1924 - SPP LLC dba RozFx** proposes to utilize a portion within an existing one-story building with floor area measuring **22' 0" (L) x 21' 6" (W)** for its "Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing" Use. The site is located on **Lot 039 L 50 & 039 L 51** in the village of **Obyan.** This area is zoned as **Rural.**

C. Old Business

1. Parking regulations in Garapan Core (GC), Garapan East (GE), Village Commercial (VC), and other zoning districts

D. New Business

1. None

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates
   a. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulation
   b. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Conditional Use
Application #2024-1924
SPP LLC dba RozFx

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **SPP LLC dba RozFx** proposes to utilize a portion within an existing one-story building with floor area measuring **22' 0" (L) x 21' 6" (W)** for its "Cannabis Manufacturing and Processing" Use. The site is located on **Lot 039 L 50 & 039 L 51** in the village of **Obyan.** This area is zoned as **Rural.**

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **August 29, 2024**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 3pm, August 27, 2024.** Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Conditional Use Permit
#2020-14923
American Xiong's Corporation
dba Angel Market

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. **American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market** proposes to amend its previous approved *Conditional Use Permit 2020-3847* to include a new use of *Flower/Floral Shop* on the ground floor of its existing building & to construct a 2nd floor extension measuring **84' 6" (L) x 40' 6" (W) x 24' (H)** for its *"Single-Family Dwelling"* use. The site is located on **Lot 002 G 16** in the village of **Kagman.** This area is zoned as **Village Residential.**

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Date: **August 29, 2024**
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/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Secret Service accountability for Trump shooting debacle remains incomplete

Since the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump on July 13, reporting and public disclosures have continued to underscore the communication failures and negligence that nearly precipitated a national crisis—and got one Butler County firefighter killed. Finally, after weeks of shifting blame to local agencies, the Secret Service has rightly taken the full blame for the incident.

The resignation of Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle was a necessary consequence of the agency's appalling incompetence—but it is not sufficient. The agency must make serious reforms, and be transparent about its own self-evaluation, to regain the public's trust.

The security lapse was ultimately the result of poor communication between the Secret Service and officers from Butler and Beaver counties and the Pennsylvania State Police in the days, hours, minutes and seconds leading up to the shooting. At any of those times, Secret Service action would have foiled the would-be assassin—but the agency failed.

Days: During preparations for the Butler rally, local law enforcement flagged as a security concern the precise building Crooks used as a (very obvious) sniper's nest. Yet the Secret Service failed to report it.

Hours: On the day of the rally, state and local law enforcement identified the shooter as a suspicious person. Yet the Secret Service failed to take note of him.

Minutes: Before Trump took the stage, both civilian bystanders and law enforcement raised the alarm about a suspicious person on the roof. Yet the Secret Service allowed Trump to speak.

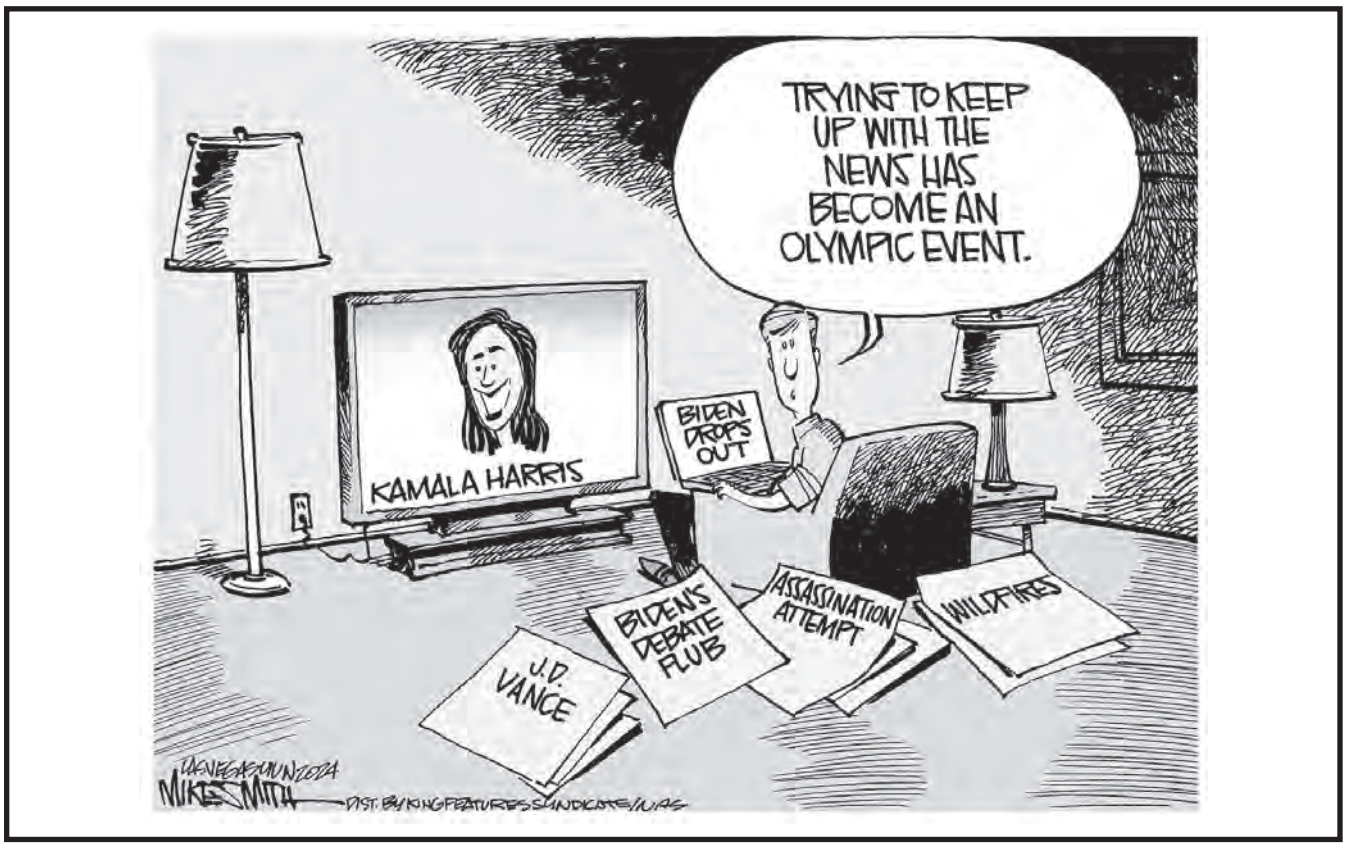
Seconds: Less than a minute before the shooting, a local law enforcement officer made eye contact with the shooter, and frantically attempted to alert the federal agency. Yet the Secret Service did nothing, until shots rang out.

The only reason this outlandish incompetence did not result in a national and international catastrophe is sheer luck—a last second head tilt from the presidential candidate. Corey Comperatore and the two other rally-goers who were seriously injured were not so fortunate.

It's also possible that with a more competent and proactive response, the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, would still be alive today.

While Secret Service acting Director Ronald Rowe, Jr., has been more forthcoming and more accountable than his predecessor, the public still deserves a thorough moment-by-moment accounting of the agency's failures on that day and leading up to it. The American people also deserve a public assurance that no such lapse will happen again, which means

See SECRET on Page 7



Kamala Harris juggernaut is the right omen for Justin Trudeau

By MATTHEW A. WINKLER
Bloomberg Opinion

Matthew A. Winkler, editor in chief emeritus of Bloomberg News, writes about markets.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau suffers the same unfavorable public opinion enveloping prime ministers around the globe. But he can smile on U.S. President Joe Biden for reminding Canadian voters that a political party delivering prosperity enhanced by diversity, equity and inclusion still is what people want.

When Biden informed the American public that the fate of the world and the best-performing U.S. economy since the 1960s are more important than his bid for a second term—underlining his uncontested endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris to succeed him—he put his party and country first.

When he then completed negotiations for the largest prisoner exchange since the Cold War, not with a little help from Harris, the 46th president belied the media narrative of an 81-year-old's alleged infirmity guaranteeing Donald Trump's return to the White House.

Biden's chosen successor, the former California senator, attorney general and public prosecutor, who was born to a Black Jamaican father and Indian mother, turned her detractors' DEI epithet into a joyous accolade via multiple, unprecedented Zoom calls with White Women, Black Women, White Dudes, Black Men and even Deadheads for Kamala. The diversity of supporters also raised a record amount of money in record time in any presidential campaign.

The invigorated Democratic Party led by Harris should provide some solace to Trudeau and his Liberal Party, which for the first time in Canada's history ushered in the No. 1 economy among the Group of Seven developed nations over the past eight years (excluding the U.S.), according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Trudeau, like Biden and the Democrats in 2020, showed no intention of going back to the anemic neoliberalism that left too many people behind. Running third in the polls in 2015, Trudeau defied political orthodoxy by declaring his intention to "invest" in Canada when increased government spending was taboo. The incumbent party said he wasn't "ready." He proved otherwise almost at once.

Trudeau created the first cabinet of any Canadian prime minister that continues to be 50% women. His reconciliation agenda with Canada's indigenous communities, consulting with First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders, has enough moral force to prevent its repeal by any future government.

His legalization of cannabis similarly is secure for no other reason than future governments will be addicted to its revenues and surfeit of jobs. For the first time, there are more women than men on the Supreme Court because Trudeau made six consecutive appointments.

Trudeau is the first prime minister to make Senate appointments non-partisan and his carbon tax, early learning and child-care policies are the templates for Canada's future well-being. Trudeau managed the COVID-19 pandemic better than most of his peers.

All of which makes the DEI of Trudeau and Harris entirely about the pursuit of excellence. Anyone watch the Olympics lately? Trudeau's DEI commitments underline the resurgent economy that in no small way was strengthened by record immigration and is the opposite of Trump's xenophobia, inconveniently shared by some of his European counterparts. Canada's population of 41 million has expanded 1.5% annually since 2015, exceeding every G7 country. The 3.2% population increase in 2023 was the most since 1957 at the height of the post-World War II baby boom, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. As my fellow Bloomberg Opinion columnist Tyler Cowen wrote earlier this year, Canada's "liberal policies may be causing tension now, but in the long run they will make it stronger."

Trudeau was alone amid the Anglo-American tide of Brexit and Trumplandia. Unlike his predecessors, he presided over the narrowing growth gap between the U.S. and Canada. Since he took office in 2015, Canada's gross domestic product increased at an annualized rate of 4.1%, only 1.1 percentage point less than the U.S. and greater than the rest of the G7, including No. 3 Germany by half a percentage point, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Until Trudeau's election in 2015, Canada was expanding 0.5 percentage point slower than the U.S. during the prior decade.

With Trudeau at the helm, Canada became an international trade powerhouse, boosting exports by 45% since 2015 to $593 billion in 2023, accounting for 27% of Canada's GDP, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. During the period, imports increased 3.6% annually, meaning Canada sold goods and services to the world faster than it bought. That's a reversal from the prior 15 years, when Canada bought more than it sold.

Nothing confirms the ascendancy of Trudeau's premiership better than Canada's dollar, which is among just six of the 31 major currencies tracked by Bloomberg to hold its value or strengthen between the end of 2015 and last month when the euro, Australian dollar and Japanese yen depreciated 0.34%, 10.2% and 19.8%, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

See KAMALA on Page 7

One of the year's most important elections just happened

By JAMES STAVRIDIS
Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Across the globe, this is the "year of elections," with high-stakes contests in India, the European Union, Mexico, South Africa, the U.S. and many other places. But one election that will have a major effect on 70% of the world's surface has gone almost unnoticed: the recent vote for secretary-general of International Seabed Authority, with 169 member states.

An organ of the United Nations, the ISA was created by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982. Headquartered in Jamaica, it has authority over all deep seabed mining concessions worldwide, with a mandate to protect the riches of the international seabed (which accounts for more than half of the total ocean floor). Of particular note, the ISA will decide whether to permit mining in areas containing manganese, cobalt, copper and nickel.

I have on my desk a small nodule containing those elements, given to me by a colleague involved in the quest to open up this potentially important source of key materials. As a young naval officer in the early 1980s, I did my doctoral studies on the technology associated with deep seabed mining, which at the time I thought would begin very soon.

I was wrong—or, if I want to go easier on myself, just premature. Deep seabed mining has been stalled for a variety of environmental and economic reasons, as well as the requirement to share relevant technology with the global community. Now, however, the technology to surface the nodules is improving, while land-based sources are drying up and commodity prices are rising.

So the election of the new ISA secretary-general took on an outsize importance. The winner, Brazilian oceanographer Leticia Carvalho, has a strong mandate: The vote was 79 to 34. Carvalho, currently an official for the UN environmental program in Nairobi, will be the first Brazilian, the first scientist and the first woman to lead the organization.

Her predecessor, Michael Lodge, has pushed aggressively for a set of regulations for deep seabed mining, which the industry supports. Carvalho, who takes office on Jan. 1, has said that the ISA is unlikely to meet its internal deadline of July 2025 to formalize those rules.

That's unfortunate. Particularly as electric vehicles become more popular and the need for batteries grows, the strip mining of such nodules from the deep seabed will accelerate. The ISA has issued more than 30 contracts to both private and state-run companies to look for nodules across 500,000 square miles of international seabed.

Carvalho's election comes at a complicated moment. New and unexpected findings indicate that the nodules may produce oxygen. This means that more data collection and environmental analysis will be necessary. A minority of ISA member states (the U.S. is not one) has already called for a pause on mining, and more may join in requesting a moratorium.

The "hot zone" for mining is in the center of the Pacific, near tiny island nations of Kiribati, Naura, and Tonga. They are working with a Canadian firm, The Metals Company (TMC), to begin mining—even if regulations are not in place. This will not sit well with many of the nation-states of the ISA, some of whom see the exploitation of the seabed as 21st century colonization. A guiding principle of the Law of the Sea treaty is that the international seabed is the "common heritage of all mankind."

But some of the delegations—including China and Japan, whose combined GDP is nearly a quarter of the global economy—are pushing forward. The U.S., while not a member of the ISA, has generally favored mining in order to support manufacturing. Several European, Australian and Canadian companies are interested in moving forward on mining for both economic and geostrategic reasons.

The rise of AI, which is used to prospect and explore the deep seabed, has allowed for more efficient mining, as have advances in robotics and nanotechnology. These technologies will only add to the pressure to mine the deep seabed.

The geopolitical implications of this are fraught. As demand for critical materials increases, the drive to create state-sponsored or state-supported entities to assure supplies will become irresistible. There will also be competition among major industrial powers to curry favor with the nations with large exclusive economic zones, constituting 200 nautical miles near large nodule fields. Already there are major state-sponsored initiatives to work with Pacific Island nations to develop their seabed.

For the U.S., the major strategic priority should be to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ironically, it was objections over the deep seabed mining regime that caused the U.S. to oppose the treaty in the 1980s. Despite a couple of close calls over the decades, it has never been approved by the U.S. Senate. Yet it enjoys overwhelming support from U.S. naval strategists—including every admiral I know—as well as U.S. industry.

If the U.S. wants a voice in the deliberations over the deep seabed—and it should—then it needs to ratify the treaty, which will require bipartisan support, and try to influence the process from the inside. The ISA's recent election should serve as a warning: The opportunity to make an impact on policy over the world's oceans is drifting away (pun intended) from the U.S.

Pinballing through the presidency

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

In the gilded, overwhelmingly ornate main room of his Mar-a-Lago resort and estate, former President Donald Trump stood in front of four huge American flags Thursday and pinballed through a press conference unlike anything ever seen in presidential campaigning.

Trump performed much like those steel pinballs that bounced and banged off spring-cushioned blobs beneath the glass tops of those flashing, clanging bar game machines that were all the rage in the last century. Trump bounced and banged from one false claim to nasty name-calling to fake statistics to feel-good promises and then back to the next false claim.

If you thought each seemed astonishingly unrelated to whatever came before and/or was about to follow, well the problem wasn't you. America's 45th president seemed determined to become a one-man public works jobs provider for media fact-checkers.

Actually, there was one organizing theme to Trump's pressorama: size matters. He returned to the theme he fixated upon on Day One of his presidency, when he ordered his press secretary to tell you Trump's Inauguration crowd was the largest ever. On Thursday, Trump kept returning to brag about his crowd sizes.

When a questioner asked about Vice President Kamala Harris's large and enthusiastic crowds, Trump responded by pinballing wildly. All that follows here was in one answer (which I have condensed as a favor to your sanity):

"Oh, give me a break. …I'm so glad you asked, what did she have yesterday? 2,000 people. If I ever had 2,000 people, you'd say my campaign is finished. It's so dishonest the press.…

"I have 10 times, 20 times, 30 times the crowd size…. If I were president, you wouldn't have Russia and Ukraine, would've never happened. Zero chance. You wouldn't have had October 7th of Israel. You wouldn't have the horrible withdrawal… from Afghanistan…. We wouldn't have had these soldiers killed, and we wouldn't have had 45 soldiers obliterated, no legs, no arms, the face, none of that would have happened, and you wouldn't have had inflation….

"You wouldn't have had any inflation, because inflation was caused by their bad energy problems…. But the day after the election, if they won, you're going to have fuel prices go through the roof. Everybody's going to be forced to buy an electric car…. People want gasoline propelled cars….

"So, but on crowd size in history for any country, nobody's had crowds like I have…

"I have hundreds of thousands of people in South Carolina and 88,000 people…"

Whoa. Well, let's at least fact-check something. How about Trump's South Carolina crowd of 88,000? Turns out it wasn't a Trump crowd, after all. He just went to the state's biggest football game – the Palmetto Bowl, Clemson vs. South Carolina. The announced crowd was 80,172. At halftime, South Carolina's Republican Gov. Henry McMaster and Trump walked to the center of the field, Trump waved and walked off the field. That's all.

Later in his press conference, Trump compared his Jan. 6, 2021, rally crowd size at the Washington Monument with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s crowd size at the iconic 1963 civil rights "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

"Nobody's spoken to crowds bigger than me. If you look at Martin Luther King, when he did his speech – his great speech – and you look at ours, same real estate, same everything, same number of people. If not, we had more."

Today, as we look with our mind's eye at the visuals of Trump pinballing through a Mar-a-Lago press conference, we can envision the scene of Number 45, if he becomes Number 47, pinballing through America's presidency. We envision. We decide.

EPILOGUE: We also remember another revealing thing about Trump's Jan. 6, rally where he urged the crowd to go to the Capitol and fight to prevent Congress from certifying his 2020 Electoral College defeat. We especially remember the important testimony—that has just become more poignant than ever—where his aide, Cassidy Hutchinson, testified that Trump told his Secret Service to remove the magnetometers because his rallygoers who had guns weren't entering the site.

"I don't f-ing care that they have weapons," she quoted Trump as telling his agents. "They're not here to hurt me. Take the f-ing mags away. Let my people in. They can march to the Capitol from here."

We remember. We decide.

SECRET

From page 6

a transparent accounting of the reforms Rowe and the agency's parent Department of Homeland Security intend to implement. No excuses. No hesitation. No holding back.

The U.S. political system has absorbed a tremendous number of shocks in recent months and years, which have both emerged from and contributed to the most extreme political polarization in over a century. Thus far, the system has proven remarkably resilient.

But a crisis of competence at the security agency that is meant to be the very definition of competence, charged with protecting the world's most important leaders, could push us over the edge. It almost did. And it must be fixed without delay.

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KAMALA

From page 6

And if the bond market is the canary in the world coal mine, Canada's economy remains the avatar of health with its government debt securities appreciating 8%, or 0.7 percentage point more than the world Treasury benchmark on a yearly basis, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Canada's superior performance has a lot to do with the increasing diversity of corporate Canada. When Trudeau became prime minister, 37% of the 100 largest Canadian companies by market value were financial firms and 18% were energy. The same groups shrank to 30.7% and 17.6% since then while industrial and technology each increased almost six percentage points, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Technology got a boost under Trudeau, who told business leaders in 2019: "Access to talent obviously comes from immigration and it comes from training young and educating Canadians right." While many countries, including the U.S., are "closing themselves off more to immigration," Canada remains open. Sure enough, total hours worked in professional scientific and technical services increased 41% since 2015, the most among 18 industries.

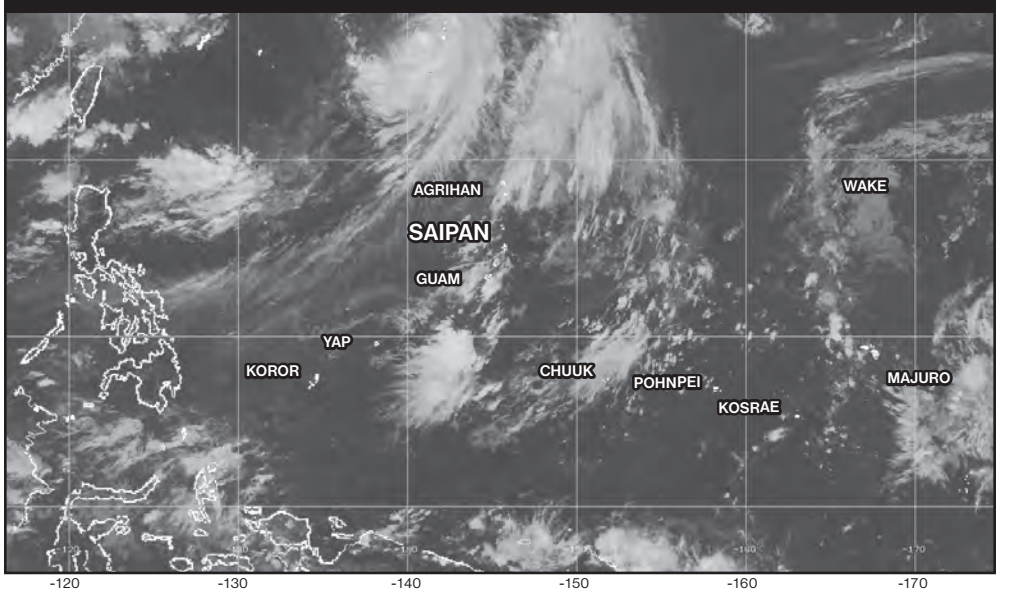
Having done more than any of his predecessors to make Canada a 21st century leader, Trudeau can see across the border that Biden's policies paved the way for the Harris juggernaut. If the Democratic Party's unity is any indication, Trudeau and his Liberal Party aren't finished yet either.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87° 79°	87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:18 AM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will continue through tonight. East to southeast winds of 10 to 15 knots will continue through Thursday, then diminish to between 5 and 10 knots. Seas of 3 to 5 feet could increase by 1 foot early next week. Overall, this will maintain benign marine conditions for all the sailors out there, just watch for the moderate risk of rip currents. Little change in the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:03 AM	2:41 PM
Friday	-	1:59 AM	3:41 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	4:39 PM
Sunday	-	4:04 AM	5:33 PM
Monday	-	5:08 AM	6:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	60° / 51°
Beijing	Fair	88° / 74°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 80°
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	93° / 69°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 61°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Showers	60° / 51°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Clear	81° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	100° / 83°
Paris	Showers	98° / 73°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	90° / 76°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 71°
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 57°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 80°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	95° / 83°
Washington, DC	Fair	85° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:53 AM	High Tide	1.76
9:56 AM	Low Tide	0.15
5:55 PM	High Tide	1.74
10:24 PM	Low Tide	1.49

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Older Americans prepare for a world altered by AI

NORTHFIELD, Ill. (AP)—The students—most with gray hair, some with canes, all at least in their 60s — couldn't believe what they were hearing.

"Oh, my God," whispered a retired college professor.

"Does it come with viruses?" wondered a bewildered woman scribbling notes in the second row.

A 79-year-old in a black-and-white floral shirt then asked the question on many minds: "How do you know if it is fake or not?"

This is how older adults—many of whom lived through the advent of refrigeration, the transition from radio to television and the invention of the internet—are grappling with artificial intelligence: taking a class. Sitting in a classroom in an airy senior center in a Chicago suburb, the dozen students were learning about the latest—and possibly greatest—technological leap in their lives.

And they are not alone. Across the country, scores of such classes have sprung up to teach seniors about AI's ability to transform their lives and the threats the technology poses.

"I saw ice boxes turn into refrigerators, that is how long I have been around," said Barbara Winston, 89, who paid to attend the class put on at the North Shore Senior Center in Northfield. "And I think this is probably the greatest technical revolution that I will see in my lifetime."

Older adults find themselves in a unique moment with technology. Artificial intelligence offers significant benefits for seniors, from the ability to curb loneliness to making it easier for them to get to medical appointments.

But it also has drawbacks that are uniquely threatening to this older group of Americans: A series of studies have found that senior citizens are more susceptible to both scams perpetrated using artificial intelligence and believing the types of misinformation that are being supercharged by the technology. Experts are particularly concerned about the role deepfakes and other AI-produced misinformation could play in politics.

Winston left the class to start her own AI journey, even if others remained skeptical. When she got home, the retired professor downloaded books on the technology, researched the platforms she wanted to use from her kitchen table and eventually queried ChatGPT about how to treat a personal medical ailment.

"This is the beginning of my education," she said, her floral cup of coffee nearby. "I'm not worried about protecting myself. I'm too old to worry about that."

Classes like these aim to familiarize aging early adopters with the myriad ways the technology could better their lives but also encourage skepticism about how artificial intelligence can distort the truth.

Balanced skepticism, say experts on the technology, is critical for seniors who plan to interact with AI.

"It's tricky," said Michael Gershbein, the instructor of the class in Northfield. "Overall, the suspicion that is there on the part of seniors is good but I don't want them to become paralyzed from their fears and not be willing to do anything online."

Inflation likely stayed low last month as Fed edges closer to cutting rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—If the Federal Reserve needs any further evidence that the worst price spike in four decades is steadily easing, it's likely to come Wednesday, when the government is expected to report that inflation cooled further last month.

Consumer prices are thought to have risen just 0.2% from June to July, according to economists surveyed by FactSet, a pace only slightly above the Fed's 2% annual inflation target. Measured from a year earlier, inflation is forecast to have remained 3%, the same as in June.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core prices are also expected to have risen 0.2% from June and 3.2% from 12 months earlier, just below the 3.3% annual increase in June.

For months, cooling inflation has provided gradual relief to America's consumers, who were stung by the price spikes that erupted three years ago, particularly for food, gas, rent and other necessities. Inflation peaked two years ago at 9.1%, the highest level in four decades.

Inflation has taken a central role in the presidential election, with former President Donald Trump blaming the Biden administration's energy policies for the price spikes. Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday said she would soon unveil new proposals to "bring down costs and also strengthen the economy overall."

Grocery prices are expected to have been largely unchanged from June to July, according to economists at UBS. Over the past year, food prices are up just 1.1%. Still, food costs have soared roughly 21% in the past three years, squeezing many family budgets.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said he is seeking additional evidence of slowing inflation before the Fed begins cutting its key interest rate. Economists widely expect the Fed's first rate cut to occur in mid-September.

When the central bank lowers its benchmark rate, over time it tends to reduce the cost of borrowing for consumers and businesses. Mortgage rates have already declined in anticipation of the Fed's first rate reduction.

At a news conference last month, Powell said that cooler inflation data this spring had strengthened the Fed's confidence that price increases are falling back to a 2% annual pace. Inflation was low in May, and overall consumer prices slipped 0.1% in June, the first decline in four years.

"It's just a question of seeing more good data," Powell said. Another inflation report will be issued next month before the Fed's Sept. 17-18 meeting, with economists expecting that report to also show that price increases remained mostly tame.

Raphael Bostic, president of the Fed's Atlanta branch, sounded more explicit about rate cuts in remarks he made Tuesday:

"Yes, it's coming," Bostic said in Atlanta to the Conference of African American Financial Professionals. "I want to see a little more data. ... We need to make sure the trend is real ... but it is coming."

Nation

AP-NORC POLL FINDS

Americans give Harris advantage over Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris has a perceived advantage over former President Donald Trump on several leadership qualities such as honesty, a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds, although Americans are slightly more likely to trust Trump on the economy and immigration.

AP

This combination of photos shows Vice President Kamala Harris, left, on Aug. 7, 2024 and Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump on July 31, 2024.

Nearly half of Americans say that "committed to democracy" and "disciplined" are attributes that better describe Harris. About 3 in 10 say these qualities better describe Trump.

About 4 in 10 say Harris is someone who "cares about people like you" while about 3 in 10 say that about Trump. About 4 in 10 say "honest" better describes Harris and 24% say that quality better describes Trump.

» On honesty and discipline

Both parties are racing to define Harris as she prepares to accept the Democratic nomination at the party's convention next week. The poll suggests she carries some of the same baggage that weighed down President Joe Biden before he ended his reelection bid but has advantages over Trump when they're compared to each other. And Democrats continue to be much happier about her candidacy than they were about Biden's.

Trump has spent the campaign championing himself as a strong leader who is capable of handling tough crises facing the country and suggesting that foreign leaders wouldn't respect Harris in the White House. But he doesn't have an advantage with Americans on that characteristic, according to the survey. Four in 10 U.S. adults see Trump as a strong leader, and roughly the same share say that about Harris. About 4 in 10 say Trump is capable of handling a crisis, and a similar share say Harris is better positioned to do so.

Americans are about evenly divided between who they think is more capable of winning in November — Trump or Harris. In July, before Biden dropped out of the race, only about 2 in 10 Americans thought he was more capable of winning, while about twice as many thought that about Trump.

"Trump had a better chance when Joe Biden was running," said Lisa Miller, a 42-year-old student in Elko, Nevada, and a Republican. "I think a lot of people who were insecure about Joe Biden are more secure with Kamala Harris' age and cognitive abilities."

Trump has advantages on the economy and immigration

Americans are more likely to trust Trump over Harris when it comes to handling the economy or immigration, but the difference is slight—45% say Trump is better positioned to handle the economy, while 38% say that about Harris. The difference is similar in handling immigration. Independents are about twice as likely to trust Trump over Harris on economic issues, and they give him the advantage on immigration as well.

Howard Barnes, a 36-year-old artist in San Francisco, is a Republican who says he trusts Trump over Harris on the border.

"She doesn't really seem to be proactive about it or even interested in it," Barnes said.

Harris has more of an advantage over Trump when it comes to handling issues related to race and racial inequality, abortion policy, and health care. Roughly half of U.S. adults say Harris would do a better job than Trump handling each of those issues, compared with about 3 in 10 for Trump. Harris is especially strong among Democrats, independents and women on the issue of abortion policy.

Democrats and independents give her the edge on health care, as well as on issues of race and racial inequality. About two-thirds of Black adults say Harris is the candidate they trust more on that issue, as well as about half of Hispanic adults and white adults.

Harris' strengths also accentuate two areas where Republicans give Trump relatively low marks: abortion policy and issues related to race and racial inequality. Only about 6 in 10 Republicans trust Trump over Harris on these issues.

There are possible signs of trouble for Harris in the poll, though. Only about 6 in 10 Democrats trust her over Trump to do a better job handling the war in Gaza, her lowest rating within her party on the issues asked about. About one-quarter of Democrats say they trust neither Trump nor Harris on this topic.

Democrats are more excited about the election now

About two-thirds of Democrats say "excited" describes either extremely well or very well how they would feel if Harris were to be elected.

The enthusiasm represents a sharp reversal from when Biden was the Democrats' candidate: an AP-NORC poll from March found that only 4 in 10 Democrats said "excited" would describe their feelings extremely or very well if he won another term. About 7 in 10 Democrats say "satisfied" would describe their emotions at least very well if Harris won. That's also a shift from March, when half of Democrats said this about Biden.

World

Japanese worried, confused after first-ever MEGAQUAKE ADVISORY

TOKYO (AP)—Japan, one of the most earthquake-prone nations on earth, issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory" last week after a powerful quake struck off the southeastern coast of the southern main island of Kyushu.

The magnitude 7.1 quake caused no deaths or severe damage but the advisory has led to widespread confusion and a lingering sense of worry — in a country well accustomed to regular quakes—about when the next big one will hit.

The Associated Press explains what the advisory means, what people are being told to do, and what could happen if a massive quake hits Japan.

What is a megaquake advisory?

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued the advisory after concluding that the magnitude 7.1 quake that struck on Aug. 8 on the western edge of the Nankai Trough increased the likelihood of another big one.

There is a 70-80% chance of a magnitude 8 or 9 quake associated with the Nankai Trough within the next 30 years, and the probability is now "higher than normal" after the latest quake, the JMA says.

But that is not a prediction that a megaquake will happen at any specific time or location, says University of Tokyo seismologist Naoshi Hirata, who heads the JMA's experts panel. He urged people to remain cautious and prepared.

What is the Nankai Trough?

The Nankai Trough is an undersea trench that runs from Hyuganada, in the waters just off the southeastern coast of Kyushu, to Suruga Bay in central Japan. It spans about 800 kilometers (500 miles) along the Pacific coast.

The Philippine Sea Plate there slowly pulls down on the Eurasian Plate and causes it to occasionally snap back, an action that could lead to a megaquake and tsunami, JMA says.

The last Nankai Trough quake off Shikoku in 1946 recorded a preliminary magnitude of 8.0 and killed more than 1,300 people.

How damaging can a megaquake be?

In 2013, a government disaster prevention team said a magnitude 9.1 Nankai Trough quake could generate a tsunami exceeding 10 meters (33 feet) within minutes, killing as many as 323,000 people, destroying more than 2 million buildings and causing economic damage of more than 220 trillion yen ($1.5 trillion) to large swaths of Japan's Pacific coast.

What is the government doing to prepare?

As a result of the "megaquake advisory," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida canceled his planned Aug. 9-12 trip to Central Asia and announced he would lead the government response and ensure preventive measures and communication with the public.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency instructed 707 municipalities seen as at risk from a Nankai Trough quake to review their response measures and evacuation plans.

Experts and officials have urged people to stay calm and carry on their daily social and economic activities while also securing emergency food and water and discussing evacuation plans with family members.

In a reassuring note on Monday, JMA experts said they have so far found no abnormal seismic or tectonic activity that would indicate a megaquake.

How are people reacting?

The "megaquake advisory," which is filled with scientific jargon, has worried and baffled people across the country. Some towns closed beaches and canceled annual events, which has led to challenges for travelers during Japan's Obon holiday week, a time for festivals and fireworks across the nation.

Many people have put off planned trips and rushed to stock up on rice, dried noodles, canned food, bottled water, portable toilets and other emergency goods, leaving shelves empty at many supermarkets in western Japan and Tokyo, even though the capital is outside the at-risk area.

The Summit supermarket chain said microwavable rice is in short supply and the store is limiting purchases to one pack per customer.

Yoshiko Kudo and her husband Shinya said they had trouble understanding what exactly the advisory meant, how worried they should be and what they should do.

"We are trying not to go overboard. Too much worry is not good," Yoshiko Kudo said.

"We don't know how to be prepared and to still live normally like the experts tell us," said Shinya Kudo, a caregiver in his 60s.

Yoneko Oshima, walking by a major train station in Tokyo, said: "It's scary ... They say there's a (70-80%) chance in the next 30 years, but it could be tomorrow." Her latest purchase is a portable toilet. She says water is indispensable for her diabetic husband, who needs to take medicine after every meal.

"I plan to take this opportunity to make a list and make sure we have everything at hand," Oshima said. She hasn't changed her holiday plans this week, but her daughter canceled a planned trip to Mount Fuji.

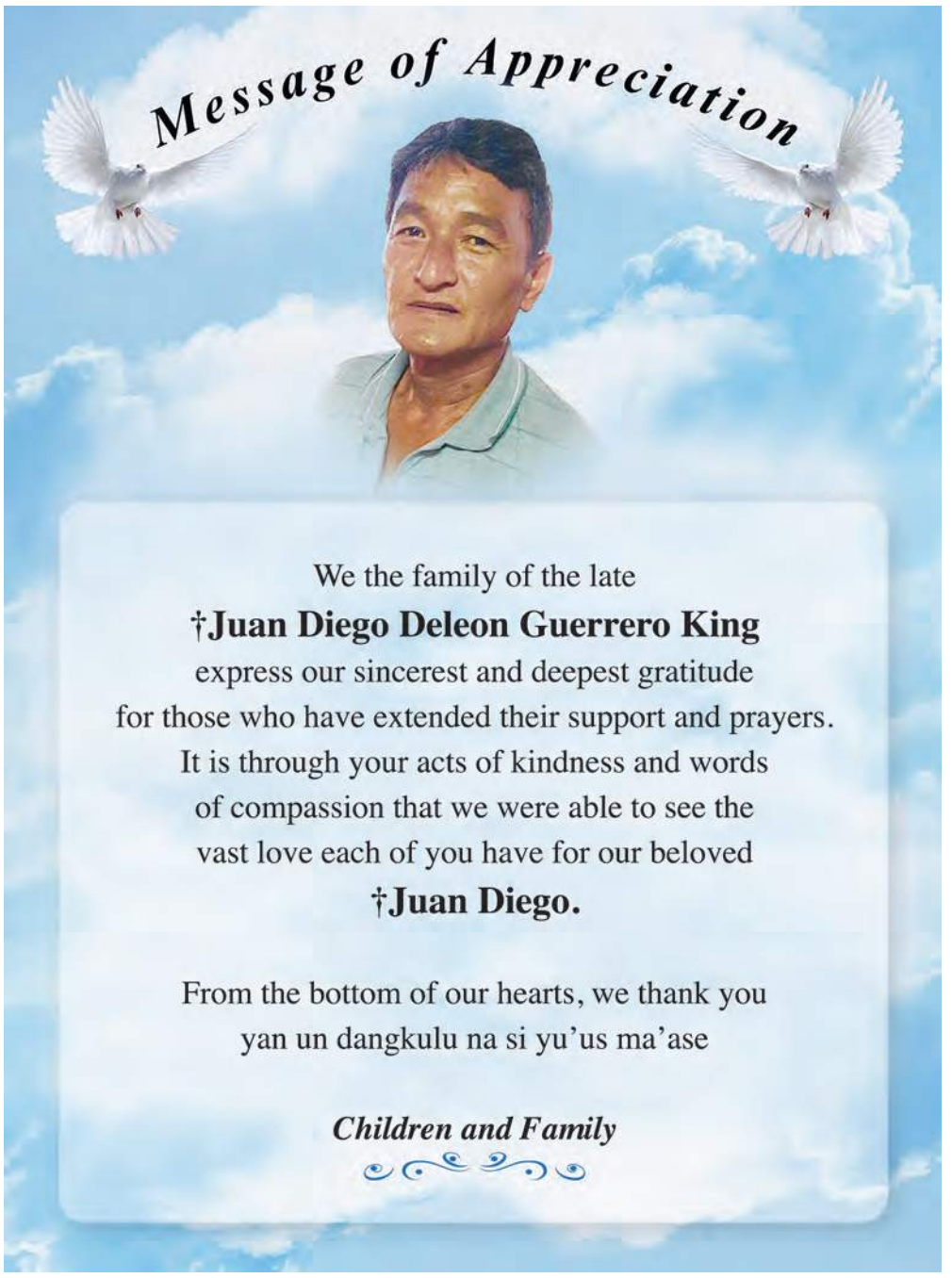
In Matsuyama city on the island of Shikoku, which has many hot springs, hotels and resorts reviewed their evacuation procedures and emergency equipment and launched a radio communication system for emergency use. They have received hundreds of cancellations since the advisory was issued, said Hideki Ochi, director of the Dogo Onsen Ryokan Association.

Rail companies serving the region said their trains are operating at slightly reduced speeds as a precaution.

A crisis management task force in the coastal town of Kuroshio in Kochi prefecture, where a tsunami as high as 34 meters (111 feet) was predicted in the government risk analysis, initially set up 30 shelters across town. But only two are still open following Monday's JMA statement that there has been no indication of an impending megaquake.

Higashi Osaka urged residents on the town website not to engage in "unnecessary and non-urgent" travel in case of a major quake.

The popular seaside town of Shirahama in Wakayama prefecture said its four outdoor hot springs, parks and other facilities would be closed for a week. Saturday's annual fireworks festival was also canceled.


Message of Appreciation
We the family of the late
†Juan Diego Deleon Guerrero King
express our sincerest and deepest gratitude
for those who have extended their support and prayers.
It is through your acts of kindness and words
of compassion that we were able to see the
vast love each of you have for our beloved
†Juan Diego.
From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you
yan un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase
Children and Family

A new round of Gaza cease-fire talks is starting

JERUSALEM (AP)—International mediators are hoping to kickstart stalled cease-fire negotiations between Israel and Hamas with a new round of talks meant to finally clinch a deal between the sides. But the chances of a breakthrough appear slim.

The new talks are set to begin Thursday, but Israel and Hamas have been mulling an internationally-backed proposal for more than two months that would wind down the 10-month-long war and free the roughly 110 hostages still held in Gaza.

The indirect talks have not advanced substantively during that time and sticking points remain. New terms put forward have complicated progress. And Hamas has yet to say outright whether it will participate in the new round.

Meanwhile, the fighting in Gaza rages on, the hostages continue to languish in captivity, and fears of an all-out regional war involving Iran and one of its regional proxies, Hezbollah, have surged. The killing of Hamas' top leader in Tehran in an apparent Israeli attack further plunged the talks into uncertainty.

Here is a look at the proposed cease-fire deal and why talks have stalled:

On May 31, U.S. President Joe Biden detailed what he said was an Israeli cease-fire proposal, calling it "a road map" to a lasting truce and freedom for the hostages. It set off the most concentrated U.S. push to bring about an end to the war, which was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks on southern Israel.

The original proposal involved three phases. The first would last for six weeks and include a "full and complete cease-fire," a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all densely populated areas of Gaza, and the release of a number of hostages, including women, the elderly and the wounded, in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. Palestinian civilians would be able to return to their homes and humanitarian aid would be increased.

The two sides would use that six-week period to negotiate an agreement on the second phase, which Biden said would include the release of all remaining living hostages, including male soldiers, and Israel's full withdrawal from Gaza. The temporary cease-fire would become permanent.

The third phase would kick off a major reconstruction of Gaza, which faces decades of rebuilding from the devastation caused by the war.

Life & Style

IN ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST TAYLOR SWIFT CONCERTS

Lawyer for suspect says allegations exaggerated

VIENNA (AP)—A lawyer for the main suspect in an alleged plot to attack now-canceled Taylor Swift concerts in Vienna said Tuesday that authorities' presentation of the case is exaggerated, and his client wouldn't have been able to carry out plans that the attorney described as "fantasies."

The 19-year-old Austrian man, whose name hasn't been released because of Austrian privacy rules, was arrested last Wednesday—one of three people who were detained. Hours later, organizers canceled the concerts that Swift was scheduled to play Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Austrian capital's Ernst Happel Stadium. Fans were devastated by the decision.

Austrian officials have said that the suspect wanted to carry out an attack outside the stadium, killing as many people as possible using knives or home-made explosives. They say that, during a raid of the suspect's home, investigators found chemical substances and technical devices.

Authorities said last week that the man confessed that he had started planning the attack in July. Defense lawyer Werner Tomanek told the Austria Press Agency that he hasn't yet had access to the case files, but cited a "fragmentary record" of his client's initial questioning to dispute their account of a full confession.

"He had neither the means nor the possibility and the explosives to carry this out," Tomanek said. He added that authorities' allegations against the 19-year-old suspect were "overacting at its best," and contended that they are "presenting this exaggeratedly" in order to get new surveillance powers.

Tomanek said that his client appeared to have mental problems and described him as "a lone wolf without social contacts." He said that "the alleged attack plans were pure fantasies."

AP

Austrian police officers watch swifts gathering in the city centre in Vienna on Thursday, Aug.8, 2024.

The lawyer said that, in his first questioning by investigators, his client had admitted "in principle to Islamist tendencies" and conceded that he had sought and found "contact with such people online," APA reported. He added that the young man did make a pledge of loyalty to the Islamic State group and put it online, but said he deleted it shortly after.

Asked why his client did so, Tomanek replied: "Because he found it cool." He said the man wanted to imitate poses struck by the assailant in a Nov. 2, 2020, attack in Vienna in which four people were killed and the gunman—who had a previous conviction for trying to join IS in Syria—also was killed.

Swift has five concerts at London's Wembley Stadium scheduled starting on Thursday.

Alyssa Milano to make her Broadway debut in the razzle-dazzle musical 'Chicago' this fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Alyssa Milano hopes to charm audiences when she makes her Broadway debut this fall in the musical "Chicago," adding her celebrity to a show that skewers celebrity culture.

"The beauty of theater is that you get to try new things every night," she tells The Associated Press. "That's what I used to love about doing theater. And that's what I hope that I can find again in doing 'Chicago.'"

Milano, former star of "Who's the Boss?" and "Charmed," steps into the role of Roxie Hart at the Ambassador Theatre beginning Sept. 16 for an eight-week engagement through Nov. 10.

For Milano, hitting the stage is a return to her roots. She was in a national touring company of "Annie" at age 8 and she went on to star in Wendy Wasserstein's "Tender Offer" at the off-Broadway Ensemble Studio Theater and "All Night Long" at Second Stage. She was in the first American musical adaptation of "Jane Eyre" and produced and starred in a Los Angeles production of "Butterflies Are Free."

Milano says doing a stint on Broadway never felt right until now. Her children—ages 9 and 12—are settled in school and extracurricular activities, and her husband is in a good place in his career.

"It just felt like when this offer came up that everything fell into place," she says. "My 9-year-old daughter looked at me and said, 'Mom, you would be an idiot not to do this.'"

AP

Alyssa Milano appears at a screening of "Maestro" in Los Angeles on Dec. 12, 2023.

In recent years, she was in the movies "Brazen" and "Wet Hot American Summer: Ten Years Later" and the Netflix series "Insatiable." Milano also leant her stardom and voice to the #MeToo movement, launched clothing, jewelry and eyewear lines and has been a host of Lifetime's "Project Runway All-Stars."

Set in the 1920s, "Chicago" is a scathing satire of how show business and the media make celebrities out of criminals. It has Bob Fosse-inspired choreography, skimpy outfits and killer songs such as "All That Jazz" and "Cell Block Tango."

"Chicago" tells the story of Roxie, a housewife and dancer who murders her on-the-side lover after he threatens to leave her. To avoid conviction, Roxie hires Chicago's slickest criminal lawyer to help her dupe the public, media and her rival cellmate, Velma Kelly, by creating shocking headlines.

Milano says she wants to honor Ann Reinking—the iconic Fosse collaborator who originated Roxie in the 1996 revival and created the choreography in Fosse's style. "I'm really trying to pay homage to her choreography and her portrayal of Roxie. Because she was profound."

The celebrity-craving heroine at the heart of "Chicago" has been played by dozens of women since the show opened in 1996, including Pam Anderson, Melanie Griffith, Christie Brinkley, Marilu Henner, Brooke Shields, Lisa Rinna, Gretchen Mol, Ashlee Simpson, Brandy Norwood, Jennifer Nettles and Robin Givens.

Milano hopes fans will come and see her more than once. "I guarantee you I'm going to keep finding things—keep finding little moments that will, hopefully, add onto the legacy of all the women who came before me."

Mother moved out of house, but her possessions remain

DEAR ABBY: I am involved with a man, "Gerald," who is an only child and has a difficult relationship with his mother. We bought his mother's home two years ago because she couldn't afford it on her own. She had separated from her husband, who is not Gerald's father.

Initially, his mother was going to stay with us, but she reunited with her husband instead. The issue is, she has not removed her personal items from our home. She's a bit of a hoarder. Our garage is full of her stuff, and every room in our home has her furniture and personal items in it.

I have packed many of them and can no longer deal with the anxiety of the unknown waiting and wondering when she plans to move them. Gerald's strained relationship with his mother doesn't help the situation. I made him text his stepfather asking when the items will be picked up.

According to Gerald, his mother has control issues, and this is all part of her game. I need advice because I'm desperate. I feel Gerald is at fault for not setting an expectation when we first purchased the home.

BOXED UP IN TEXAS

DEAR BOXED UP: Call Gerald's mother. Tell her you want her things out of your home and set a date, after which you will arrange for a moving company to deliver them to her and her husband. Be sure to give her plenty of notice -- a month -- so she can plan to have what items she doesn't need placed in storage (at her expense). Will she like you for it? Heck, no. But you will be free.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister was recently in the hospital. Due to swelling in her hands, it became necessary to remove her wedding band. This ring was our late father's wedding band. If we were not successful in removing it, they were going to have to cut it off. I asked if she wanted me to take it home with me, and she nodded yes. I returned it to her when she came home.

I am now being accused by my family of stealing the ring! My sister wears only this ring, no others. But my family insists she was wearing two of our mother's rings. Nope. Mom was buried with her original wedding ring set and her anniversary ring. (Our parents had been married more than 50 years when Dad passed away. Mom followed five years later.)

I love my family, but right now I'd rather not speak to them for a while. Should I forget the accusation made against me, or keep my distance for my own benefit?

ACCUSED IN MISSOURI

DEAR ACCUSED: You didn't mention who, exactly, is accusing you of stealing the ring. Is it your sister? She knows how many rings she was wearing when she went to the hospital and should be able to straighten these relatives out. If she cannot or will not do that, for the sake of your mental well-being, it might be better to avoid your accusers until this is resolved.

■■■

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DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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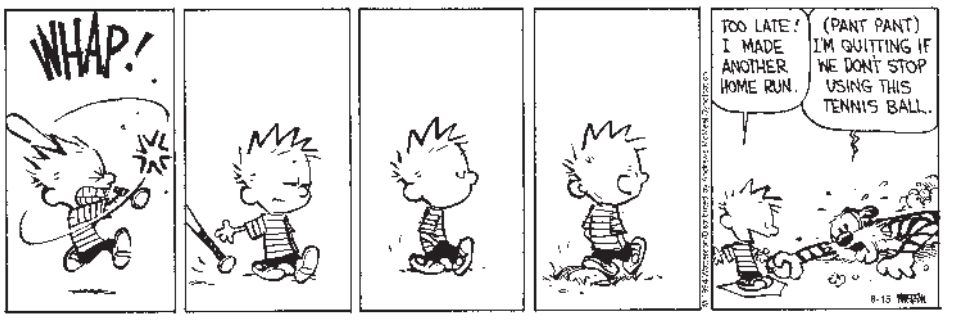
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

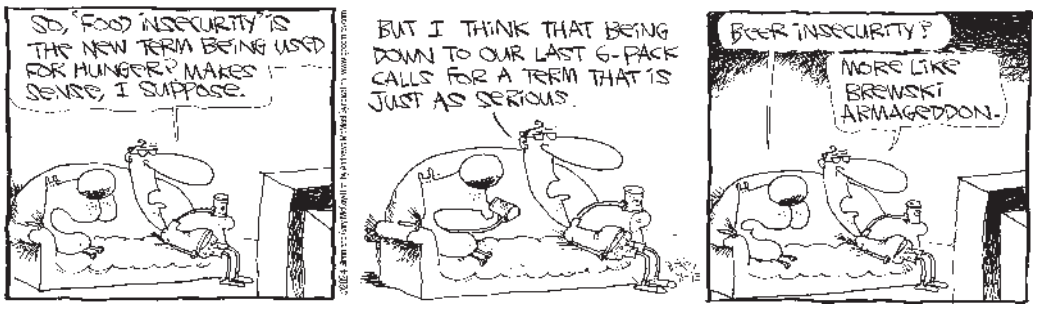
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

NO WORD FROM THE COFFEE TESTING LAB?
NOPE. OUR COFFEE COMPANY IS ON HOLD.
SO, WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
JUST MAKING SOME CONNECTIONS AND STUFF.
IT JUST SHOULDN'T BE THIS HARD.
WAIT. CONNECTIONS, THE GAME?
I ONLY HAVE ONE GUESS LEFT!!
8.15

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SO, "FOOD INSECURITY" IS THE NEW TERM BEING USED FOR HUNGER? MAKES SENSE, I SUPPOSE.
BUT I THINK THAT BEING DOWN TO OUR LAST 6-PACK CALLS FOR A TERM THAT IS JUST AS SERIOUS.
BEER INSECURITY?
MORE LIKE BREWSKI ARMAGEDDON.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

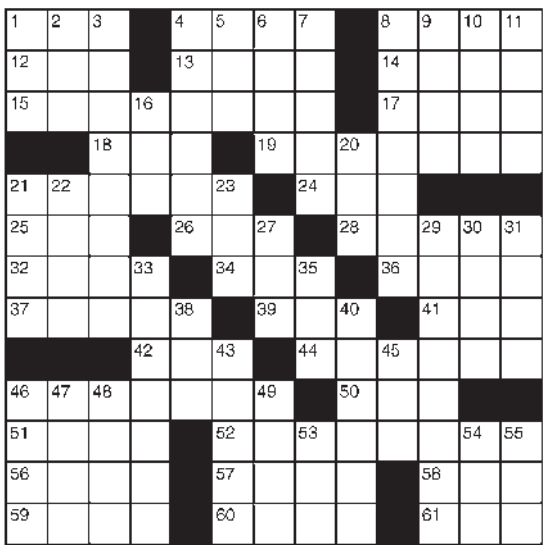
ACROSS
1 Fragrant tree
4 Baseball game souvenirs
8 Staff symbol
12 I love (Lat.)
13 "Swan Song" author Hilder-brand
14 Capital of Italia
15 Felix, to Oscar
17 Idle of Monty Python
18 Skier Tommy
19 Wood muncher
21 Prefer-ence
24 Kanga's kid
25 Fury
26 Lean- — (sheds)
28 Wrap up by
32 Baseball great Willie
34 Name
36 First-rate
37 Ninnies
39 "Wham!"
41 Genetic letters
42 Paris appella-tion
44 Type of light switch
46 Pledge drive gift
50 Auto-mobile
51 Booty
52 Photo-develop-ment site
56 Pocket bread
57 French cleric
58 Peculiar
59 Navy com-mando
60 Israel's Golda
61 Tex- — cuisine

DOWN
1 Distant
2 Texter's "As I see it"
3 Hotel guests' needs
4 Solidify
5 — carte
6 Brad of Holly-wood
7 Look of disdain
8 City known for fine violin-making
9 Actress Singer
10 Send forth
11 Confront
16 French pronoun
20 Shad product
21 — bean
22 401(k) relatives
23 Pantheon member
27 "How's it goin'?"
29 Campus quarters
30 Actress Hathaway
31 Eye drop
33 Dakar's country
35 Physique
38 Weep
40 Basket material
43 Sir's counter-part
45 Scratch
46 Recipe amts.
47 Tot's scrape
48 "Toodle-oo!"
49 Kaplan who played Kotter
53 Slugger's stat
54 Verse by Neruda
55 1510, in old Rome

Solution time: 24 mins.

I	I	M	■	E	P	I	C	■	V	I	B	E
U	S	O	■	M	I	S	O	■	E	R	I	N
G	L	O	■	E	I	I	A	P	L	A	C	E
S	A	T	Y	R	■	■	T	I	C	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	A	M	S	■	G	R	A	M	S
A	N	Y	P	L	A	C	E	■	O	R	C	A
C	F	F	■	D	A	R	T	S	■	I	C	K
N	E	A	P	■	M	I	S	P	L	A	C	E
F	A	R	O	R	■	M	Y	R	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	I	A	■	■	Y	I	K	E	S
P	A	R	K	P	L	A	C	E	■	A	D	S
E	D	I	E	■	E	R	A	S	■	T	A	I
P	A	C	T	■	S	I	G	T	■	E	M	S

Yesterday's answer 8-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Lawrence, 34; Joe Jonas, 35; Anthony Anderson, 54; Debra Messing, 56.

Happy Birthday: Stop second-guessing yourself. Ask questions, make up your mind and put your plans in motion. Refuse to be a follower or let someone take advantage of you. Do your own thing, consider what you want and refuse to attach yourself to someone else's dream. Attitude is everything, and if you are confident and fun to be with, you'll get the response and support you require to make your journey memorable. Your numbers are 8, 12, 23, 29, 35, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be careful who you trust. Verify everything before passing it along. Ease stress through relaxation or an activity that helps you maintain emotional stability. Keep an open mind, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone will lead you astray or take advantage of your gullibility. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't fool yourself into thinking someone will help you out of the goodness of their heart. There will be a price to pay or hidden costs that come your way if you aren't cautious about who you hire or how you invest your time and money. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for legitimate opportunities, not hype. If something sounds too good to be true, take a pass. Invent opportunities rather than tag along. The easy path will not pay off long-term. Do your best, work hard and use your skills, experience and knowledge to advance. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An open mind will gather wisdom, knowledge and the path to success. Travel, education and observation will help you gauge trends and figure out how to take advantage of an opportunity. Seize the moment. Don't fear change; embrace it and bask in your good fortune. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Reach out to interest groups or people who can contribute to your success. Start a dialogue and determine what's available and the cost involved. A friendly but knowledgeable and confident attitude will ensure you receive the information you require and hands-on help. Call the shots. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Work behind the scenes. Stay out of the way and out of trouble. Use wisdom and experience to navigate through situations threatening your position or prosperity. Choose discipline over bravado, and let your results be your calling card. Stick close to home and nurture meaningful relationships. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Point yourself in the direction you want to go, then run to the finish line. Create opportunities, learn as you go and let your intelligence and charm help you attract helpers who can make your journey notable. Abide by the rules, and don't take shortcuts. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look over your shoulder and protect your ideas, possessions and reputation. Be careful not to give anyone inside information that allows them to beat you to the finish line. Take the high road, show discipline and be innovative. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep the information flowing, learn all you can and incorporate your findings into your routine. Efficiency is the path to freedom; don't rely on others to decide for you. Opportunity begins with you and your ability to believe in yourself. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Truth matters. Emotional deception is prevalent. Whether you fool yourself into believing what's false or allow someone to lead you astray, regret will follow. Get the facts and do whatever it takes to get back on track. It's always possible to turn a wrong into a right. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A change is overdue, but first, figure out how to make things happen. Check to see if there are any incentives or offers that can bring you closer to your objective. Look for opportunities, and talk to people practicing what you want to mimic. 3 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Simplify your life. If you let others intervene or lure you into temptation, you will fall short of your expectations. Don't take a risk with your relationships, health or assets. Establish what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, helpful and trendy. You are indulgent and tense.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		3			6	1	2
2					8	3	5	
							9	
		2	1	3			4	
	8	7	4	9	2	5		
3	4			8		7		
			2					5
5			8	6			3	
			7	5	9	1	8	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	7	3	4	1	2	6	8
6	3	1	9	2	8	7	4	5
2	4	8	5	6	7	9	1	3
1	6	2	8	9	3	5	7	4
7	9	5	2	1	4	3	8	6
3	8	4	6	7	5	1	2	9
8	7	3	1	5	6	4	9	2
5	1	9	4	8	2	6	3	7
4	2	6	7	3	9	8	5	1

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/14

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FLOODING OF THE NILE HOLIDAY Solution: 7 letters

T	Y	A	G	R	I	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	S	V
C	R	T	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	J	T	O
S	E	E	I	B	L	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	N	L
T	E	R	A	L	U	A	L	Ⓒ	S	L	A	N	A	C
N	T	R	E	S	I	A	N	Ⓡ	S	B	G	A	L	A
E	A	S	E	M	U	T	S	Ⓞ	C	I	U	I	P	N
I	R	P	U	N	O	R	R	Ⓟ	S	G	R	R	F	O
R	B	H	N	R	I	N	E	E	U	A	O	I	E	T
T	E	A	R	S	Y	I	Y	S	F	S	E	R	S	N
U	L	R	E	G	Y	P	T	L	P	E	E	S	T	O
N	E	A	W	A	F	A	A	E	L	N	I	L	I	O
U	C	O	R	I	C	H	R	P	E	R	E	T	V	S
B	E	H	R	E	V	I	R	W	E	R	U	T	A	N
I	A	K	H	E	T	F	A	R	M	I	N	G	L	O
A	E	L	C	Y	C	L	L	A	F	N	I	A	R	M

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Agriculture, Akhet, Annual, Arabic, August, Canals, Celebrate, Ceremony, Costumes, Crop, Cycle, Egypt, Farming, Fertility, Festival, Gift, Hapi, Harvest, Monsoon, Nature, Nubia, Nutrients, Osiris, Papyrus, Peret, Pharaoh, Plants, Prosperity, Rainfall, Renewal, Rich, River, Seasonal, Tears, Tradition, Treasure, Volcano, Wafaa El-Nil

Yesterday's Answer: Chop

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Baseball is back in the Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Baseball Writer

The on-again, off-again relationship between the Olympics and baseball is heading toward another reconciliation in 2028.

That leads to the inevitable discussion of what the rosters could look like.

» What the rosters will look like is hard to say

Commissioner Rob Manfred said last month he was open to the possibility of major leaguers participating, but recent history suggests some obstacles. Baseball was dropped after the 2008 Games, returned in 2021 in Japan, then was left out this year in Paris.

The sport returns for the Los Angeles Games four years from now. At the Tokyo Olympics, Major League Baseball only allowed players not on 40-man rosters to play—and teams additionally blocked many eligible prospects. The potential health risk is real, a point only further driven home by Edwin Díaz's season-ending injury at the 2023 World Baseball Classic.

AP

People watch the cauldron rise at sunset by the Olympic rings during the 2024 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 5, 2024, in Paris, France.

So the 2021 U.S. team was led by a few familiar names, such as Todd Frazier and Edwin Jackson, with a couple of intriguing youngsters in Tristan Casas and Shane Baz. The mix created little buzz.

One possible compromise would be for teams to keep active major leaguers out of the Olympics but permit top prospects who haven't yet reached the majors to go. The event would resemble the All-Star Futures Game, but for a whole tournament.

In 2000, future big leaguer Ben Sheets shut out a powerful Cuban team to secure the gold medal for the U.S. Nowadays it's far easier for fans to monitor top prospects. Imagine if baseball were in the 2024 Games and the game's best minor leaguers were largely available. The U.S. lineup could've been full of players like Dylan Crews and Marcelo Mayer, two prospects ranked in the top 10 by MLB Pipeline.

Those wouldn't be household names for casual Olympic watchers, but baseball diehards might recognize—or be glad they were introduced to—some of them. Whether that team could win anything is another matter. Nippon Professional Baseball interrupted its season in 2021, which helped Japan ultimately beat the U.S. for the gold medal.

But with the Americans hosting the Olympics in four years, the baseball tournament is clearly an opportunity for ... something. The players, owners and Manfred just need to figure out what.

Analysis: Olympics with a short field delivers stars on the podium and compelling golf

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France (AP)—Take a small field and eliminate about half of them for not having a realistic chance of winning and it sounds like it could be a LIV Golf event.

But this is the Olympics, with 60 players from more than 30 countries, some of whom rarely experience a big stage, none getting paid. Singapore had its first player (Shannon Tan) in the women's competition. Switzerland had its first (Joel Girrbach) in the men's event.

That might explain why golf in the Olympics continues to deliver the biggest stars on the podium, along with compelling stories.

Paris was no exception.

Scottie Scheffler set the tone for the fortnight at Le Golf National with a Sunday charge that was as amazing as the collapse of Jon Rahm.

Scheffler was four shots behind going into the last round, and the world's No. 1 player still trailed by six shots as he played the 12th hole. He shot 29 on the back nine, closed with a 9-under 62 and added Olympic gold to an already astonishing year.

Xander Schauffele, the gold medalist from the Tokyo Games, also is having a monster year with major titles at the PGA Championship and British Open. He shared the 54-hole lead with Rahm and said afterward that "cherry on top would not do it justice" if he had won another gold.

"Scottie is going to have about 14 cherries on top of his cake," Schauffele said.

It's been that kind of year.

The best year in women's golf belongs to Nelly Korda, with five straight wins (including a major) and six titles in seven starts. The Olympics, however, were all about Lydia Ko of New Zealand.

Ko had said at the start of the week she hasn't seen her silver medal from Rio de Janeiro or her bronze from Tokyo since winning them. Her father had the silver. Her sister had taken the bronze back to their parents' native South Korea to share with family. Ko said if she won the gold, she would have to take back the other medals.

Ko's road back to her Florida home probably will include a detour to South Korea. "I think I need to find a good place to put them all together," she said Tuesday.

Her game was as good as it has been all year, and the timing could not have been better. Ko, who got married at the end of 2023, has been contemplating retirement and concluded this would be her last Olympics. She needed one more victory to get into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

AP

Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, poses for the cameras with her gold medal following final round of the women's golf event at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at Le Golf National, in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France.

Just like the men's competition, there was a combination of clutch play (Ko) and collapses (Korda, Morgane Metraux, Miyu Yamashita, Rose Zhang). Ko made a 45-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole, built a five-shot lead and then had to hang on to win by two.

She headed to Scotland and didn't get her first good sleep until Sunday night.

"I woke up like, 'Was that a dream? Did that just really happen?' Super exciting," she said at the Women's Scottish Open. "Just very grateful for literally this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Indeed, it was a quite a show.

But that's how it was the previous two Olympics for golf.

Korda won the gold in Tokyo as the newly minted No. 1 player in women's golf who was coming off her first major. Schauffele won gold with a 5-foot par putt on the last hole, a tribute to both parents. His mother was raised in Japan—his grandparents are still there—and his father had Olympic aspirations of his own until getting struck by a drunk driver on his way to a German training site. He lost an eye among numerous injuries. Storybook stuff.

In Rio de Janeiro, former U.S. Open champion Justin Rose won a duel with British Open champion Henrik Stenson.

The more compelling outcome was Inbee Park. She has been injured in 2016 and barely played while she tried to recover, and there was a push behind the scenes by the South Korean squad to replace her with someone who would have had a better shot at gold. Park ignored the noise, and then took down Ko—the No. 1 player at the time—to win.

Golf already has produced gold medalists destined for the Hall of Fame if they aren't there already, such as Park and Ko. Scheffler is virtually assured of being No. 1 for the longest stretch since Tiger Woods. Rose is a former No. 1. Schauffele is a double major winner who finally is getting is due as one of the elite.

By now there should be little debate whether golf belongs in the Olympics, even though it doesn't look like other sports in the program. There is no getting around the fact most Olympic athletes wait four years for their prize and golf has four of them (five on the LPGA Tour) a year in the form of majors.

Scheffler's year would not have been incomplete without a gold medal. He has a green jacket. Ko's career was made complete with gold.

Next up are the Los Angeles Games in 2028. Given how the last three Olympiads have gone, what will Riviera deliver?

Burger homers for 4th straight game as Marlins beat Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jake Burger homered in the fourth straight game, Valente Bellozo gave up four hits in seven innings and the 75-loss Miami Marlins kept the Philadelphia Phillies in a summer swoon that has cost them the best record in baseball with a 5-0 victory on Tuesday night.

After spending much of the first three months of the season as the winningest team in baseball, the Phillies' brutal stretch since June has raised serious concerns headed into the stretch run about a serious shot at winning a World Series championship.

Taijuan Walker (3-4) allowed three runs and walked three over four innings in his first start since June 21.

AP

Miami Marlins' Jake Burger, left, celebrates his home run with Jesus Sanchez, right, during the third inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, in Philadelphia.

REDS 4, CARDINALS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Hunter Greene allowed one run through seven innings, Jeimer Candelario hit a two-run homer and Cincinnati beat St. Louis to secure a win of the series between the NL Central rivals.

The hard-throwing Greene (9-4) allowed four hits while striking out eight and walking one in notching his third straight win.

Spencer Steer had a two-out, RBI single in the first inning. Ty France led off the second with a homer off the roof of the Cardinals bullpen in right, his 11th of the season.

Candelario smashed his 19th homer with two outs in the sixth.

Cardinals starter Erick Fedde (8-6) went six innings, giving up four runs and six hits and striking out two. He allowed both of Cincinnati's home runs.

NATIONALS 9, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Andrés Chaparro doubled three times in his big league debut, almost overshadowing another four-hit game by rookie James Wood as Washington beat Baltimore.

Chaparro became the fourth player in major league history with at least three doubles in his debut—the first since Nick Evans of the New York Mets hit three at Colorado on May 24, 2008.

The Nationals called up Chaparro before the game, and with the score tied at 2 in the fourth inning he came through with his first career hit, a double that left runners on second and third with nobody out. Ildemaro Vargas and Luís Garcia Jr. followed with sacrifice flies.

Washington then added three more runs in the sixth, again after a double by Chaparro put runners on second and third with no outs.

ASTROS 3, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Alex Bregman and Jeremy Peña homered, and the AL West-leading Houston won their seventh consecutive game by beating Tampa Bay.

Yusel Kikuchi (6-9) allowed one run and three hits over 5 2/3 innings to go 2-0 in three starts with the Astros since being acquired from Toronto on July 29.

Josh Hader got three outs for his 26th save in 27 chances for the Astros, who increased their division lead to 1 1/2 games over Seattle.

TIGERS 15, MARINERS 1

DETROIT (AP)—Matt Carpenter homered twice in his return from a back injury, Jake Rogers drove in seven runs and pitcher Tarik Skubal earned his MLB-leading 14th victory as Detroit Tigers routed Seattle.

Rogers drove in two runs with a double in the third inning, added a slam in the fourth and hit an RBI double in the sixth to become the first Tigers players with seven RBIs in a game since Ryan Raburn accomplished the feat against the Chicago White Sox on July 25, 2007.

The Tigers scored a season-high in runs and banged out a season-best 21 hits in their second straight victory and fourth win in seven games.

Skubal allowed one run on three hits in six innings. The 27-year-old left-hander struck out nine—raising his season total to a majors-leading 180—walked one and hit two batters.

GUARDIANS 2, CUBS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jhonkensy Noel hit a solo homer in the sixth inning off Drew Smyly, providing the go-ahead run for Cleveland in a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Noel's 430-foot drive onto the left field porch was his ninth home run in 32 games since making his major league debut on June 26. He had his first two-homer game Monday in the series opener, a 9-8 win by Cleveland.

The Guardians took sole possession of the best record in baseball at 71-49 with their fourth straight victory. They also own the top home mark in the majors, going 37-20 at Progressive Field.

Pedro Avila (4-1) retired two batters for the win, while Emmanuel Clase earned his fourth save in four days to tie St. Louis' Ryan Helsley for the major league lead with 37.

RED SOX 9, RANGERS 4

BOSTON (AP)—Kutter Crawford carried a perfect game into the sixth inning and Connor Wong highlighted a 12-hit attack with a three-run homer as Boston Red beat slumping Texas.

Rob Refsnyder and Nick Sogard each drove in a pair of runs as the Red Sox dealt Texas its third straight loss and its sixth setback in seven games. The defending World Series champion Rangers also dropped a season-worst 10 games below .500 at 55-65.

Texas manager Bruce Bochy was ejected in the middle of the sixth after arguing a called third strike that ended a four-run rally as the Rangers got back into the game.

Boston won for just the second time in six games despite some shaky relief after Crawford was lifted in the sixth.

ATHLETICS 9, METS 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Shea Langeliers hit a three-run homer off former batterymate Paul Blackburn and went 4 for 4 again, powering Oakland to a win over the skidding New York Mets.

Langeliers had two doubles and missed the cycle by a triple. It was the second consecutive four-hit game for the catcher, who was 4 for 4 against the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday.

Seth Brown opened the scoring with a three-run double against Blackburn (5-3) in the first inning before Langeliers capped a four-run third with a 406-foot homer to left-center field. Miguel Andujar and Langeliers each had a run-scoring hit off José Buttó in the sixth.

The Mets, outscored 31-5 in losing their last four games, scored three times in the fifth off starter Joe Boyle, who gave up an RBI double to Jesse Winker before Pete Alonso snapped an 0-for-15 slump with a two-run single.

DODGERS 7, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit his National League-leading 37th home run and the Los Angeles Dodgers finished with four homers in a win over Milwaukee.

Gavin Lux and Andy Pages each hit a two-run home run during a five-run fourth inning that gave the Dodgers a 7-1 lead.

Will Smith also homered as the NL West-leading Dodgers improved to 71-49 and matched the Cleveland Guardians for the best record in the majors.

The Dodgers' Gavin Stone (10-5) allowed one run on three hits in five innings, striking out six with no walks in an 86-pitch outing.

YANKEES 4, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Juan Soto had his first career three-homer game, Nestor Cortes tossed seven shutout innings and the New York Yankees held off the Chicago White Sox to take sole possession of the AL East lead.

Soto tagged starter Jonathan Cannon (2-6) for a two-run shot to left field in the third inning and went the other way again on a leadoff homer in the fifth. The four-time All-Star added his 33rd of the season in the seventh off left-handed reliever Fraser Ellard, pulling a drive to right that made it 4-0.

With a chance to match the major league record of four home runs in a game, Soto walked in the ninth after swinging and missing at a 3-0 pitch that was a little out of the strike zone.

Cortes (6-10), who gave up nine hits and six earned runs in a short outing against the Angels five days earlier, scattered three hits and equaled his season best with nine strikeouts.

TWINS 13, ROYALS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Zebby Matthews threw five crisp innings to win his major league debut for the Minnesota, who hit Seth Lugo hard to hand the All-Star right-hander his worst start of the season and beat the Kansas City.

Matthews (1-0) allowed two runs on five hits with no walks and five strikeouts, the latest and most meaningful feat for the 24-year-old right-hander who started the season in Class A.

Matt Wallner and Jose Miranda led the barrage against Lugo (13-7) from the middle of the batting order, and Max Kepler had a three-run homer and Kyle Farmer hit a two-run shot once the Twins reached the bullpen. Minnesota kept pace with AL Central leader Cleveland, still trailing by 3½ games. Kansas City fell six games back.

The Twins (67-52) and Royals (65-55) control the second and third wild-card spots, respectively.

BLUE JAYS 6, ANGELS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Gausman tossed seven shutout innings, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 10th home run since the All-Star break and Toronto beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Will Wagner continued his strong start in the majors with two hits, including a two-run double in the first inning. Wagner, the son of former All-Star closer Billy Wagner, has five hits in eight at-bats in his first two games, including three doubles and three RBIs.

Willie Calhoun prevented the Angels from being shut out with a homer to right-center in the ninth inning.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, ROCKIES 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Jake McCarthy hit a two-out, two-run single down the left-field line in the ninth inning to lift Arizona to a win over Colorado.

The Diamondbacks continued their hot streak, winning five in a row and 17 of 20. Arizona secured its ninth straight series win.

Arizona started its ninth-inning rally with a one-out triple from Corbin Carroll, who ripped a liner into the right field corner and easily made it to third. Victor Vodnik (3-3) recovered to strike out Kevin Newman before Adrian Del Castillo and Geraldo Perdomo walked to load the bases.

That brought up McCarthy, who is among the hottest hitters in baseball. The left-handed batter smacked a two-strike fastball down the third-base line, which easily got past Ryan McMahon since he was shading McCarthy well off the line.

PADRES 3, PIRATES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Michael King worked six scoreless innings, Manny Machado drove in two runs and David Peralta homered as San Diego beat Pittsburgh and sent the Pirates to their ninth straight loss.

The Padres won for the 18th time in 21 games since July 20 and claimed their eighth straight series. Conversely, the Pirates lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

King (10-6) struck out 10, allowed seven hits and didn't issue a walk, throwing 70 of his 93 pitches for strikes. The 29-year-old right-hander won for the fifth time in six decisions since June 29.

Pirates starter Luis Ortiz (5-3) gave up two runs, one earned, and three hits with three strikeouts and two walks in five innings.

BRAVES 4, GIANTS 3, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Travis d'Arnaud homered early and hit an RBI single in the 10th inning that sent Atlanta past San Francisco.

Ramón Laureano also went deep and Austin Riley singled twice to lead Atlanta to its second consecutive win over San Francisco in extra innings.

Pinch-runner Luke Williams began the 10th as the automatic runner at second base. With one out, d'Arnaud hit a grounder toward the right side of the infield. The ball deflected off the glove of diving second baseman Brett Wisely into right field.

In the bottom of the 10th, the Giants attempted to bunt their automatic runner to third but Wisely was called for batter's interference. LaMonte Wade Jr. and Heliot Ramos flied out to end it.

Run Saipan, Michelob Ultra fuel funds for SHS

Run Saipan and Michelob Ultra proudly showcased the awarding of proceeds from the Corporate Relay division of the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile to the Saipan Humane Society. This annual Run Saipan event, a regular highlight on the race calendar, brought together local businesses and community members in a fun and competitive atmosphere, with all proceeds now benefiting SHS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the welfare and protection of animals in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ron Snyder from Run Saipan and James Lee and Heather Popa, representing Michelob Ultra, present a Run Saipan bag and a check to the Saipan Humane Society and their resident dog, Grandma.

Held last Aug. 2 on International Beer Day, the Corporate Relay in the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile saw enthusiastic participation from teams representing various companies across Saipan. Competitors enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, fitness, and celebration, all while contributing to a worthy cause. The collaboration between Run Saipan and Michelob Ultra for this event highlighted the incredible impact that local businesses and organizations can have when they unite for a common good.

"We were thrilled to partner with Michelob Ultra to support the Saipan Humane Society," said Dr. Ron Snyder, secretary/treasurer of Run Saipan. "This event was not just about friendly competition but also about giving back to our community. The funds raised have made a significant difference in the lives of animals in need on our island."

The success of the Corporate Relay in the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile underscored the importance of community partnerships in strengthening the CNMI. By working together, businesses and non-profits were able to amplify their impact, addressing critical needs and fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

"The CNMI is built on strong community ties, and events like these showcased how powerful those connections can be," said Heather Popa of MarPac, representing Michelob Ultra. "We were proud to support the Saipan Humane Society and to help promote a culture of giving back."

The Saipan Humane Society expressed its gratitude for the generous contribution, noting that the funds raised have supported vital programs, including adoption services, medical support and educational outreach to promote responsible pet ownership.

"Community support is essential to our mission," said Guadalupe Attao, executive director of the Saipan Humane Society. "The Saipan Humane Society expresses its gratitude for the generous contribution, noting that the funds raised will support vital programs, including medical support and educational outreach to promote responsible pet ownership."

The role of community partnerships in the CNMI remains crucial in addressing local challenges and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. The support from Run Saipan and Michelob Ultra for the Saipan Humane Society in the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile is a shining example of how businesses and organizations can come together to make a lasting impact. ***(PR)***

Lakers open Cup title defense Nov. 15 against Spurs

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers' defense of the NBA Cup title will begin on Nov. 15 in San Antonio against Victor Wembanyama and the Spurs, and Klay Thompson will be back at Golden State—as a visitor with Dallas—on Nov. 12.

The NBA released the schedule of the group play games on Tuesday, with those contests getting played on a series of Tuesdays and Fridays starting Nov. 12 and ending Dec. 3. Each team was assigned to a five-team group and plays the other four clubs in that group once.

LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the Lakers went 7-0 in the tournament last season—when it was simply called the In-Season Tournament—and beat the Indiana Pacers in the final in Las Vegas. The semifinals and finals return to Las Vegas this year, with the semis on Dec. 14 and the title game on Dec. 17.

The NBA Cup will provide some obvious storylines. Among them: Thompson going back to Golden State, where he helped the Warriors win four titles, after joining the Mavericks this summer. And then the Lakers open defense of the Cup title, it'll be a game where James and Davis face Wembanyama again after helping the U.S. beat France in the gold-medal game at the Paris Olympics.

Almost all of the games for the 2024-25 NBA season will be released Thursday. All games in the NBA Cup will count in the regular-season standings except for the title game in Las Vegas; that would be an 83rd game for both of those teams, which doesn't fit into an 82-game season.

Teams will get schedules Thursday with 80 games on them. Every team will play two more, either in the playoffs of the NBA Cup or in games scheduled between teams that did not make the tournament quarterfinals. And those teams that lose in the quarterfinals will meet for what essentially becomes the 82nd game on their schedule for the coming season.

NBA Cup format

There will be 60 group-stage games in all—eight games on Nov. 12, then 12 on Nov. 15, six on Nov. 19, eight on Nov. 22, five on Nov. 26, 10 on Nov. 29 and the final 11 on Dec. 3.

Each NBA team will play four designated group play games—one game against each opponent in its group, with two games at home and two games on the road. The four group winners will make the quarterfinals, along with one wild-card team from each conference. That wild-card club will be the best second-place team from each conference.

East Group A

Nov. 12: New York at Philadelphia; Charlotte at Orlando.

Nov. 15: Brooklyn at New York; Philadelphia at Orlando.

Nov. 19: Charlotte at Brooklyn.

Nov. 22: Brooklyn at Philadelphia.

Nov. 29: New York at Charlotte; Orlando at Brooklyn.

Dec. 3: Philadelphia at Charlotte; Orlando at New York.

East Group B

Nov. 12: Miami at Detroit; Toronto at Milwaukee.

Nov. 15: Miami at Indiana; Detroit at Toronto.

Nov. 22: Indiana at Milwaukee.

Nov. 26: Milwaukee at Miami.

Nov. 29: Toronto at Miami; Detroit at Indiana.

Dec. 3: Milwaukee at Detroit; Indiana at Toronto.

East Group C

Nov. 12: Atlanta at Boston.

Nov. 15: Chicago at Cleveland; Washington at Atlanta.

Nov. 19: Cleveland at Boston.

Nov. 22: Atlanta at Chicago; Boston at Washington.

Nov. 26: Chicago at Washington.

Nov. 29: Boston at Chicago; Cleveland at Atlanta.

Dec. 3: Washington at Cleveland.

West Group A

Nov. 12: Minnesota at Portland.

Nov. 15: Minnesota at Sacramento; L.A. Clippers at Houston.

Nov. 22: Sacramento at L.A. Clippers; Portland at Houston.

Nov. 26: Houston at Minnesota.

Nov. 29: L.A. Clippers at Minnesota; Sacramento at Portland.

Dec. 3: Houston at Sacramento; Portland at L.A. Clippers.

West Group B

Nov. 12: Phoenix at Utah.

Nov. 15: L.A. Lakers at San Antonio; Phoenix at Oklahoma City.

Nov. 19: Oklahoma City at San Antonio; Utah at L.A. Lakers.

Nov. 26: L.A. Lakers at Phoenix; San Antonio at Utah.

Nov. 29: Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers.

Dec. 3: Utah at Oklahoma City; San Antonio at Phoenix.

West Group C

Nov. 12: Dallas at Golden State.

Nov. 15: Denver at New Orleans; Memphis at Golden State.

Nov. 19: Denver at Memphis; New Orleans at Dallas.

Nov. 22: Dallas at Denver; Golden State at New Orleans.

Nov. 29: New Orleans at Memphis.

Dec. 3: Memphis at Dallas; Golden State at Denver.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	71	50	.587	–
Baltimore	70	50	.583	½
Boston	63	55	.534	6½
Tampa Bay	59	60	.496	11
Toronto	56	64	.467	14½
Central Division				
Cleveland	71	49	.592	–
Minnesota	67	52	.563	3½
Kansas City	65	55	.542	6
Detroit	57	63	.475	14
Chicago	29	92	.240	42½
West Division				
Houston	64	55	.538	–
Seattle	63	57	.525	1½
Texas	55	65	.458	9½
Los Angeles	52	68	.433	12½
Oakland	51	69	.425	13½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	69	50	.580	–
Atlanta	63	56	.529	6
New York	61	58	.513	8
Washington	55	65	.458	14½
Miami	45	75	.375	24½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	67	52	.563	–
St. Louis	60	60	.500	7½
Cincinnati	59	61	.492	8½
Chicago	59	62	.488	9
Pittsburgh	56	63	.471	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	71	49	.592	–
Arizona	68	53	.562	3½
San Diego	68	53	.562	3½
San Francisco	61	61	.500	11
Colorado	44	77	.364	27½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARDT

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double digits, while the rest of the team contributed as much as they could.

But it was too little too late as Navarro went on a tear and scored back-to-back threes in the final minutes to secure the 7-point win.

The Player of the Game went to Lucero who put up a game-high 26 points. He collected 18 rebounds and made 3 blocks throughout the game. Navarro was right behind at 24 points, while Que scored 9 points.

For JTM, Sanchez had 25 markers, Camacho scored 11, and Caraig contributed 8.

In Game 2, Blue Haus outscored Win Pacific, 62-52.

Blue Haus also took a page out of Hardt Eye's book as they had a huge lead, 16-6, at the end of the first quarter. Onick Ragbonshe and Ibrahim Ibarola were the tandem that led Blue Haus throughout the game.

The Player of the Game in game two was Ragbonshe who scored the team's highest at 15 points. He had 5 steals, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 blocks. Ibarola was a point behind at 14, while Dane Tibayan scored 11.

Win Pacific's Webb Alano scored the most for the team at 18, while Jerick Javier had 10 markers.

The games will now be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium starting this Friday, Aug. 16. Games on Fridays will be played at 5:30pm and 7pm. Games on Saturdays are at 4pm and 5:30pm. The season will run until Sunday, Sept. 22, when the championships will be held at 10am and 2pm, along with a fun day that will be held from 9am to 4pm.

First Game

Hardt Eye Clinic 69 – Lucero 26, Navarro 24, Que 9, Pelisamen 8, Romero 2.

JTM 62 – Sanchez 25, Camacho 11, Kyrell Caraig 8, Gutierrez 6, Castillo 6, Tan 4, Benavente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 33-24, 49-45, 69-62.

Second Game

Blue Haus 62 – Ragbonshe 15, I. Ibarola 14, Tibayan 11, Lucero 6, S. Sapo 5, Surima 4, Palacios 2, Viesca 2, Y. Sapo 2, O. Ibarrola 1.

Win Pacific 52 – Alano 18, Javier 10, Peters 8, Domingo 6, Sabino 5, Ferrer 2, Rectitud 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-6, 41-15, 46-36, 62-52.

JUST4FUN

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24-14; The Kliq overpowered Saipal, 43-14; Team Yayaya shut down Pare Pack, 24-10; and Brotherhood ganged up against the Blue Jays, 24-14.

In the standings, only Brotherhood, Homies, and Team Yayaya are still undefeated with three wins each. Wazzup, Bat Dat Ass Up, Aimeliik Bat Boys, Just4Fun, The Kliq are at 2-1 each; Ur Balls, AB Team, Taotao Mona, Saipal, Red Torch, Pare Pack, and Blue Jays are at 1-2 each, and only Team Luchan has yet to win at three losses.

Baseball is back in the Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles
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Hardt Eye Clinic, Blue Haus notch wins

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Hardt Eye Clinic and Blue Haus notched wins in the continuation of the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 Preseason Games last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In Game 1, Hardt Eye Clinic slipped past JTM, 69-62.

Hardt Eye had a commanding lead by the end of the first quarter, 16-9, after two 3-pointers by Jezpher Navarro and field goals from the rest of the starting five. JTM could not find their rhythm and before they knew it, Hardt Eye led by 7 points.

The second quarter was a little better for JTM as they finally got some of their shots in. However, the formidable duo of Navarro and Christian Lucero continued their attacks at the basket—and T.J. Que joined the fray to put Hardt Eye up, 33-24 at the end of the first half.

JTM's Carl Sanchez continued to lead his team in the second half as he drew fouls from his aggressiveness. He lived in the free throw line as he made 12 charity buckets. Tony Camacho was the only other player over

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LEIGH GASES
Player of the Game, Hardt Eye Clinic's Christian Lucero, right, goes up for the contested shot during their game against JTM in the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 Preseason Games last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Just4Fun extinguishes Red Torch, 20-5

LEIGH GASES
File photo shows Just4Fun's Christian Camacho eyes the ball during an at-bat during a game in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just4Fun extinguished Red Torch's flame, 20-5, in the continuation of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Just4Fun had a field day against Red Torch's pitcher as everyone in their lineup contributed to the team's win.

Red Torch drew first blood at the top of the first inning with two runs by Seleno Yormad and Jobe Reyes, but Just4Fun doubled the lead at their turn at the plate. Brian Camacho, Nate Camacho, and Jay Kintol rounded the bases after a bases-clearing grand slam by Ben Jones to put Just-4Fun up, 4-2 heading into the second.

Taylor Germance then cut the lead to one, 3-4, after he scored in the second for Red Torch. Just4Fun scored one in the second, then Red Torch added two tie knot it all up, 5-5. However, Just4Fun blew the game wide open in the third as they brought in 10 runs from three homers.

Keith Kintol hit a three-run homer, followed by a two-run jack by Antonio Norita. Three batters then got on base and were in perfect position for another grand slam—this time by Shine Tenorio for a 15-5 lead.

Just4Fun wasn't done as they hit three more homers—one by Keith, Ko Lifoifoi, and Tyler Flores for a 20-5 final after Red Torch failed to produce in their last at-bat.

In other results, Wazzup beat Ur Balls, 17-3; Bat Dat Ass up dropped Team Luchan, 5-2; the Homies destroyed AB Team, 20-9; Aimeliik Bat Boys bashed Taotao Mona,

See JUST4FUN on Page 15

Trench Tech to hold 'Mats of Fire' in Sept.

Trench Tech Promotions will be holding a submission grappling tournament, dubbed "Mats of Fire" on Sept. 28, 9am-4m, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

Sensei Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said the tournament will serve as a fundraiser for Trench Tech Purebred Saipan's trip to the Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament on Oct. 26 in Guam.

"We will be using this as a fundraiser for our kids to be able to travel to Guam. We're going to sell tickets for fans and have a food and drink concession. We had this last year, but it was only kids. Since we are already going do it, we will also have adults to compete as well," he said.

Entry fee for participants of the "Mats of Fire" submission grappling tournament will be $50 for adults and $30 for children, while admission to the event is $5 for 12 years old and below and $10 for 13 years old and above.

Categories will be kids gi and adults no gi. The former's weight divisions are 40-50 lbs. Peewee 1, 51-60 lbs. Peewee 2, 61-70 lbs. Peewee 3, 71-80 lbs. Peewee 4, 81-90 lbs. kids 1, 91-100 lbs. kids 2, and 101-150 lbs. absolute. The latter weight divisions include 101-110 lbs. super atom weight, 111-120 lbs. atom weight, 121-130 lbs. flyweight, 131-140 lbs. bantamweight, 141-150 lbs. featherweight, 151-160 lbs. lightweight, 161-170 lbs. welterweight, 171-185 lbs. middleweight, 186-205 lbs. light heavyweight, and 206-250 lbs. heavyweight.

Aside from the regular slate, there will also be a halftime kickboxing halftime exhibition. Main sponsors of the "Mats of Fire" submission grappling tournament include Monster Energy, Century Hotel, and Haf Adai Rent-A-Car.

For more information on the "Mats of Fire" submission grappling tournament, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 484-4662. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Trench Tech Promotions sensei Justis "Cuki" Alvarez referees a grappling match between his students in this undated photo.